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THE COMING PARLIAMENT.

ONE of the wits of the time of James the First described a session in two lines:—

"Many faults complained of,—a few things amended,
A subsidy granted, the Parliament ended!"

It must be admitted that this would not be altogether a false description of some sessions of our own day; and yet there is a charm in the name of Parliament, which always makes the country expect something better "this time." The meeting breaks up the dulness of the country—sets all pens going and tongues wagging with fresh vigour—and lets loose on the nation everybody that has a plan or a complaint. After all, too, the country is secretly proud that it has got a Parliament, though it jangles with it in a way which reminds one of the lover in the old epigram, who could not live either with his sweetheart or without her.

Two great divisions comprise the business of political life in Eng-

land—"What to do?" and "Who is to do it?" The latter has a vast deal the most interest for many minds, and is the sole point of interest to some. Indeed, the lower kind of politicians never really care about anything else. They regard the prospects of England as matters entirely subordinate to those of A. and B., and they run about London, picking up personal gossip, with the eagerness of a fellow who is looking out for a job to hold a horse. With these people now the great question is how the Ministry stands, and whether Lord Palmerston is safe? For our own parts, we feel pretty sure that he is; and for this reason, that he is a Coalition in himself. A Coalition Government is generally a short-lived affair,—not because its policy is many-sided, but because its individual members will not agree personally. A single Minister, however, may be a Coalition *per se*; and this is the case of the Premier, who, like the manna of the Hebrews, has the taste of every kind of thing about him—a Whig reputation, a Tory policy, and a Radical popularity—each for

use when required. All the country requires is to get up an agitation for anything it really wants, and Palmerston will do it. For this reason we are in hopes that some useful measures will be passed this session; the country has shown an inclination for them, and rather than lose the country, we believe he will take to social improvement.

However, at the best of times, legislation bears but a small proportion to "explanation" in parliamentary proceedings; and explanations are sadly wanted about one or two foreign matters. The Chinese and Persian rows will not be long in coming before us. Touching the first, we shall have more warlike news before we have any prospect of peace. The row develops; and having first provoked the Chinese into fighting, we shall have to fight them for our own position on their shores altogether. That is the present prospect, which involves much commercial disturbance and private suffering, to begin with, but which will ultimately (at the cost of some injustice) strengthen our hands and enlarge our dealings in these parts of the world. Our



PIPER DAVID MUIR. GEORGE GLEN. DONALD MACKENZIE. COLOUR-SERGEANT WILLIAM GARDNER.
A GROUP OF THE 42ND HIGHLANDERS.—(PHOTOGRAPHED FOR HER MAJESTY, BY CUNDALL AND HOWLETT.—FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.—SEE PAGE 77.)

whole history there is a mixture of the bully and the trader—the "Ready Reckoner" introduced by 32 pounders—a struggle, half selfish and half cruel, to bring queer, ancient, artificial China, with its old and elaborate civilisation, into open communication with the world. England is to those nations a commercial Mahomet, propagating free trade at the point of the bayonet, and giving, as her alternative, the ledger or the sword. An odd thread of cant runs through all our doings in this line. We really believe that we have a right to extend ourselves, and that nations on whose independence we trench do actually gain more than they lose by our triumphs. Yet we never have the honesty to act openly on this assumption, but keep up a pretence of having the letter of the law and the forms of justice on one side—a not very successful pretence, as the Yeh controversy shows. Accordingly, the country is in this curious frame of mind at present,—that it thinks Yeh rather hardly used, but is not sorry that we are likely to half annex Canton. Of the Persian business, from its *telerrima causa* to its present phase, the world knows far less,—being, besides, far more ignorant of Persia than of China generally. We shall have a grand Persian night in the House, of course, in which the Premier will accuse gentlemen opposite of "an imperfect knowledge of the facts," and Mr. Layard will tell the story with indignation, and Mr. Williams will be curious about the expenses. However, there is reason to think that the Persian war will be only another "little war," such as we are always making and protesting against. The Shah will yield, and the difficulty be postponed till our Indian power presses nearer and nearer him, and some dispute, embodying the irritation of that fact, arises. We see no reason for people's persuading themselves to look on the present difficulty as the Russian sore breaking out in a new place. There is a constant attempt to invest our diplomatic squabbles with this kind of political importance, when, in reality, they are often only silly and personal. And as for our Asiatic strength,—that is best consulted by governing well where we are actually in possession, and not by distant and dangerous warfare, which excites against us the jealousy of a score of races, and enables Russia to strengthen herself by appearing as their friend and adviser.

With regard to the purely political side of our home matters, we do not anticipate a session of stirring interest. There is no strong agitation in the wind. Our reformers are all, according to Mr. Roebuck, disarmed by an influence more delicate and more potent than the bribery of Walpole or the severity of Pitt. They are floored in the drawing-room and ball-room—enchanted by a shake of the hand, or choked into silence by plover's eggs! In vain corruption walks the land and provokes the honest indignation of provincial zeal;—the patriot's wife is smiled on by Lady Emily, and his noble wrath is quenched for ever. The British Lion, softly patted by the hand of aristocratic beauty, becomes docile and harmless. So, at least, says Mr. Roebuck; and if he is sincere, he had best begin by reforming his Reformers. We must have an Act of Parliament to abolish dinners and routes; perhaps, too, we should compel our Reformers to leave their wives in the country, which would take away one source of temptation at once. But the worst of Mr. Roebuck's argument is, that if he establishes the fact that there is something in social courtesy from people of rank which overcomes all the common patriotism of the day, mischievous men may urge that the patriotism must be intrinsically a very mean thing. Worse still,—they may urge that a social attraction, acting so universally, and on the best of the middle classes, must have something really worthy and natural to stand on. No reply he can make to such a reasoner but must impute a baseness to his own associates in politics, such as one never sees imputed to them by their professed opponents.

There are as yet no sufficient grounds for forming an opinion of the financial aspect of the session. We believe that the income-tax—as far as it is a war tax—will see its last days; at the same time, the estimates will be heavy, and those for the army and navy, in particular, heavier than those of any modern "peace" average. Much time will probably be bestowed on the discussion of financial questions—Bank, Currency, and the like—since the Australian discoveries (especially by the effect they are producing on silver) are now severely testing our legal arrangements in these matters. Indeed, we expect a business-like session—a dull one, perhaps—but better than the last, which was dull without being fruitful.

Our readers have seen that Lord John has returned from Italy. His stay there has produced no palpable results on the sufferings of the Southern peoples, but may have produced a scheme for our own political amelioration—highly convenient to the Whigs, with a "dissolution" gradually approaching. All such intentions, however, are veiled in the deep mystery of Whig grandeur; which vexes us the less, since we are profoundly indifferent to the prospect. In fact, we sometimes feel coming over us a conviction that the present old generation of statesmen—bred in a set of ideas and associations which have no hold on the new one, and incapable of getting out of them—would do well for us all if they bestowed the remainder of their lives on that withdrawal from mundane pursuits which has always been recommended to old age by the pious and the wise. They are, in fact, the *second-rate men of a great generation gone by*, who are ruling now by a mere dint of longevity,—not England's best men, but only her "oldest inhabitants!" This session, among other things, will help us in the transition (as we hope) to a larger-minded, more earnest, more open, and less pedantic age.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THERE is little news from Paris. During the week the Emperor has been much employed with the domestic affairs of France—working very hard with the Ministers of the Interior and Public Instruction.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Tours has been named as the successor of the Archbishop of Paris. The Cardinal is a liberal-minded and active prelate. His family name is Morlot; he was born at Langres on the 18th of December, 1795, and appointed Bishop of Orleans in August, 1839. He was nominated Archbishop of Tours in June, 1842, and Cardinal in March, 1853.

In an article which appeared in the "Moniteur," it is intimated that the King of Prussia had, before France asked Switzerland to release the prisoners, "confidentially" assured the French Emperor of his conciliatory disposition.

The proposition presented to the Council of State for the grant of a pension of 100,000*fr.* to Marshal Pelissier has been negatively by the particular section to which it was referred. The casting vote was that of the President. The objection, however, is not to the grant itself, but to the form in which it was made. The provisions were that it should revert to the Marshal's descendants in the male line. The section of the Council of State considered that this was an indirect means of establishing a majorat, and they therefore rejected it.

SPAIN

THE Queen of Spain has had an attack of measles, but is now recovering. The journals announce that their Majesties will leave for Andalusia in the month of March. Their itinerary will include Granada, Malaga, Cadiz, and Seville.

When the Court recently went to the Opera at Madrid, it was insulted by the audience. When the orchestra played the Royal March, many persons hissed—the police arrested a good many; then the public applauded furiously but ironically—more arrests; finally many persons were afflicted with bad coughs—the police did not arrest them on the spot, but they will have to find some means of alleviating these inopportune colds.

The Madrid journals of the 21st announce the arrest of General Oribe, but, according to those of the ministerial party, it was for matters totally unconnected with politics.

M. Ors y Garcia, an active member of the Liberal party, had been arrested.

The brothers Hierros and their band of eight men, who for a long time had infested the province of Burgos, have submitted. The whole band, after taking an oath of fidelity to the Queen, received an amnesty. They have given up their arms, baggage, and uniforms; their buttons bore the initials of Charles VI. (Count de Montemolino).

At Barcelona considerable agitation still prevailed amongst the working population, owing to the want of employment.

AUSTRIA.

It is reported in Vienna that Pesth, Prague, Lemberg, and Milan will be declared Imperial residences. With respect to the future provincial representation of Hungary, the idea of creating four representatives has been abandoned, and only one will be established at Pesth. It is said, that on the visit of the Emperor to Hungary in the spring, several important concessions will be made in an economic point of view; the monopoly of tobacco will be modified in a manner agreeable to the wishes of the population, and competition will be admitted in the sale of salt; finally, an agricultural bank will be created.

The Austrian army, it is said, is to be put on a peace footing throughout by the reduction of the fourth battalion to each regiment of infantry and a squadron in each regiment of cavalry. The reduction is to be fully accomplished in the course of next month.

PRUSSIA.

THE Prussian Government, if we may credit the "National Gazette" of Berlin, has it in contemplation to come to an understanding in a private manner with France on the negotiations for the definitive settlement of the Neuchâtel affair. It has communicated confidentially to the French Government, the rumour goes, the conditions on which the King of Prussia would renounce the sovereignty of that canton. He will reserve to himself the right of property over the domains and châteaux which were not appropriated to public purposes before 1848. It will not be admitted that these shall be the property of the state, and in fact, since 1848, the Prussian Government has protested against the sale of a certain part of this property, for which it will demand an indemnity. The renunciation of the sovereignty by the King will not, however, do away with his title of Prince of Neuchâtel. Lastly, it would appear that his Majesty is desirous, as was before mentioned, of retaining a protection over several charitable foundations. It is thought that the conferences will take place in the middle of February.

RUSSIA.

PRIVATE correspondence from St. Petersburg of the 16th brings important news. It appears that the Russians have obtained from the Court of Peking the authorisation, which they have been soliciting for very many years, to trade with the five Chinese ports which are open to other nations. This favour has hitherto been withheld from Russia on the ground that, for the last hundred years, she has enjoyed a monopoly of the land trade, and has also had a legation at Peking.

The new convention is of the highest importance for Russian maritime commerce, which the Emperor Alexander's Government appears to desire to stimulate by all possible means.

It is said that considerable property belonging to Russian subjects having been destroyed by the English bombardment of Canton, great indignation is expressed at St. Petersburg, and the English Government is charged with various designs against China and Russian interests there.

A new ministerial department has been instituted by the Emperor Alexander, with the view of introducing improvements into the agriculture of Russia. This department will be charged with the task of ascertaining the actual state of cultivation in the provinces, and the means best calculated to remove the obstacles which stand in the way of agriculture; it will also decide on the advisability of making pecuniary advances to farmers to effect improvements. The ministry will likewise be charged with the establishment of model farms, agricultural societies, and popular libraries for the dissemination of a practical knowledge of farming, and with the introduction of new agricultural instruments, &c.

ITALY.

THE Emperor of Austria has signalled his visit to Milan by a large act of grace. His Majesty has signed a decree, granting a full pardon to all persons in the Lombardo-Venetian territory condemned for high treason, revolt, or insurrection. "Prosecution for such crimes is suspended. The special Court at Mantua is dissolved." The general amnesty has produced an immense effect. All Milan, it is said, was spontaneously illuminated.

The Emperor and Empress left Milan for Florence on Saturday.

The Archduke Ferdinand Max is to succeed Marshal Radetzky.

King Ferdinand will grant an amnesty on the occasion of the approaching *annouchement* of the Queen.

At Petra, province of Salerno, a person named Petrone chanced to make some remarks about the King in a *café*. The gendarmes made an attempt to arrest him, but a priest, a brother of Petrone, issued out with a poignard in his hand, attacked the gendarmes, killed one of them, wounded three, and put the rest to flight. The whole family at once quitted the place, and repaired to the mountains.

It is stated that the Imperial Cabinet has made serious representations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sardinia, with respect to the demonstrations made by the democracy of Lombardy and Turin against the presence of the empire in Milan.

The King of Sardinia has arrived at Nice. His Majesty has ordered the formation of a battalion of workmen for the services of the administration of the army. It is to be divided into three companies, viz., one for hospital service, one for the commissariat, and one for the dépôts.

Pasottino, the chief of a band of brigands who have infested the Papal territories, has been killed, after killing an officer in charge of a detachment.

TURK-Y AND THE EAST.

ACCOUNTS from Constantinople, of the 16th inst., announce the closing of the conferences relative to the Principalities. Ten thousand Turkish troops will occupy the Principalities during the election of the Divans, with a view to the maintenance of order.

Orders concerning the evacuation of the Principalities by the Austrian troops have been sent to Bucharest and Jassy. The evacuation will commence, it is said, in March.

Letters from Circassia, in confirming the defeat of the Russians near Tatar Kariessi, announce that the Circassian chief Ibrahim Bey, son of Sefer Pacha, has had two successive encounters with the Russians on the two rivers which traverse the road from Stavropol to Anapa. The mountaineers are reported to have inflicted a severe loss on the Russians, and to have massacred all the prisoners who fell into their hands. It was said that a Russian General was amongst the fallen at Gjumka.

A Circassian chief has arrived at Constantinople on an official mission. Mirza Buzurk Khan, the Persian Consul at Erzeroum, has celebrated the capture of Herat with the greatest pomp and display. On the 19th of December he gave a grand banquet, to which the Governor of Erzeroum, Vedjili Pacha, and all the civil and military officers, were invited; on the 20th, the day after, the French and Russian Consuls were invited to dinner, at which several European residents also sat down. The French Consul proposed the health of his Majesty the Shah of Persia, and this toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm by all the company. Again, on the 21st, the third day, a splendid banquet was provided by the same host for all the Persian merchants present in the town.

AMERICA.

THE Legislature of New York were keenly debating the tone and tendency of the President's message at last advices. In the House of Representatives, Mr. Kelsey, of New York, read an article from the "New York

Times," charging members with corruption generally, and specifically with reference to the Minnesota Land Bill. There was a disposition to let the matter pass, but Mr. Paine, of North Carolina, stated that he had been offered, by a member of the house, 1,500 dollars to vote for the Land Bill alluded to. This changed the aspect of affairs, and, after the manifestation of considerable virtuous indignation, a committee to investigate the facts was ordered. These developments created a great deal of consternation among certain parties.

The slave insubordination has induced the citizens of Clarksville (Tennessee) to appoint a Committee of Safety, which committee has passed resolutions recommending the city and county authorities "to suppress for the future all assemblages of negroes, under any pretext whatever, at frolics, balls, benevolent societies, or at public worship where negro preachers officiate; and that ministers of the Gospel be requested to suspend absolutely their habit of preaching to the negroes on occasions separate from their ordinary preaching as ministers of the Gospel." They also recommend that the custom of allowing negroes to "hire their own time" shall be abolished.

The American continent and the Antilles have been visited by intense cold. In the north-western states men and animals had perished in great numbers—in some cases being frozen to death on the highways. It was rumoured that the Comanche Indians, in the south-western part of Kansas, had murdered two United States surveying parties, and that another party had been nearly all frozen to death.

The Supreme Court of California has declared the entire State debt unconstitutional, excepting 300,000 dollars, and recommends the adoption of the debt by the Legislature, and that the question of repudiation be submitted to the people. The people are opposed to repudiation, and meetings have been called in various parts of the State to give expression to the public opinion. At a meeting held in San Francisco, resolutions were passed pledging the redemption of the debt by the people. The amount is over 3,000,000 dollars.

The steamer *Sierra Nevada* has left San Juan with a large number of recruits for Walker. An attempt was made to sink her at her moorings.

Advices from San Juan to the 22nd of December, report that no tidings had been received of Walker for some days previously. Scott had quarrelled with him and stopped running his boats, and Walker had seized for his own use all the steamers on the lake and rivers. The church of Guadalupe was held by the Americans, who refused to surrender, though destitute and subsisting on horseflesh. They were to be attacked; immediately after which the bulk of the allied army would proceed to operate with General Canas against San Juan and Virgin Bay. The loss of the filibusters since the 24th of November was stated to be 300; that of the allies small. Private letters state that the Indians at Ometere had risen against Walker, and killed fifteen men. Walker, with 150 men had attempted to re-take Granada, but was repulsed. Canas, the commander of the Costa Rican forces against Walker, was near or in Rivas on the 12th, with 600 men. Walker had 400 men at St. George, a mile or two from Rivas, and Canas wrote that he should attack the Americans next day, unless Walker took the initiative. The whole force against the filibusters now in the field, according to Costa Rica papers, is about 2,000 men; 500 more from Salvador and from Costa Rica would enter Nicaragua immediately. Walker's whole force was not reckoned to exceed 800.

The revolution in Peru is progressing. General Vivanco, the leader of the movement, had been received with enthusiasm, and several provinces had declared in his favour. The town of Africa was attacked Nov. 24, by the insurgent steamers *Loa* and *Apurimac*.

The Mexican war-steamer *Iuribide* was wrecked at Vera Cruz; ninety-eight men perished. The frigate *Gaudaloupe* and several other vessels were lost in the hurricane which also proved fatal to the *Iuribide*.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

THE British fleet has taken possession of Bushire and the Island of Karrack. The English met with little resistance; but at Bushire, which was captured on the 8th of December, Brigadier Stopford, Colonel Milet, and Lieutenants Uttersson and Warren were killed, besides about twenty rank and file. Only one officer, Captain Wood, was wounded. Karrack was occupied on the 4th of December; and it is said that the Shah, on hearing of these events, expressed himself ready to accept the terms of the British Government, including the dismissal of his Prime Minister. This, however, is still rather doubtful, as up to this moment the news from Persia has been warlike—the Shah had visited his arsenals, and concentrated his troops on the Eastern frontiers of his Empire. In the Southern provinces, he had caused a holy war to be proclaimed.

Russia has taken possession of the islands of the Caspian, without the consent of Persia. Some revolted and barbarous tribes are carrying terror into several of the Persian provinces; but on the contrary, several chiefs of Candahar have refused to support England, and have made their submission to the Shah. The Imam of Muscat was seeking to annex the province of Aloghasstan to his territories.

The Shah gave a brilliant reception to M. de Gobineau, French Chargé d'Affaires. His Majesty wished the representative of France to be seated in his presence, while the Princes of the Royal family remained standing.

The "Morning Post" contradicts "the mischievous statement regarding Brigadier Chamberlayne's advance on Cabul, which has obtained such general circulation, and has been supposed to foreshadow an intended re-occupation of Afghanistan. Brigadier Chamberlayne's force is operating against the Meeranzies, at the express invitation of Dost Mahomed Khan; and as soon as this service is performed, it will return within our own frontier. Should it be necessary to march any force above the passes, in order to protect the Afghans from Persian attack, our troops would of course advance from Scinde by the high-road of Quetta and Candahar. At present, however, Dost Mahomed is believed to be strong enough to resist the invasion with which his territories are threatened."

The Indian journals state that Jacob's Horse were moving up towards the frontier of Scinde in detachments; and they generally note the advance of troops in the direction of the Indus.

THE WAR WITH CHINA.

HOSTILITIES seem to continue at Canton. "Yeh," says a telegraphic despatch, "continues obdurate." He has, moreover, set fire to the factories, and all the Hongas are destroyed. The French Folly Fort, on the other hand, had been taken and destroyed; and it was reported, at the date of our despatches, that the city of Canton would no longer be spared, and that the discharge of shells and rockets had already commenced.

Sir J. Bowring has applied to the Indian Government for troops. At Ceylon a portion of the troops were held ready to start for China.

THE ASSASSIN VERGER.—Verger has appealed to the Court of Cassation, but there is little probability of his condemnation being set aside, although it is the opinion of more than one eminent physician that he is a monomaniac. Since his trial, Verger has become calm almost to indifference; he writes almost incessantly, and has already filled a great number of pages with what he calls his testamentary arrangements. He has received a visit from the Bishop of Meaux, but declined to admit two Sisters of Charity, who having known him when a priest at Paris, desired to administer religious consolation to him.

A FRENCH SOLDIER of the 66th regiment of the line, killed his corporal in the barracks at Ivry, a few days ago. He had been repeatedly punished by the corporal for various acts of dishonesty and insubordination, and, having vowed to revenge himself, went into a room where the corporal was lying and shot him dead.

MILANO.—The "Swabian Mercury" quotes a letter from Naples, asserting that shortly after the execution of Milano, the man who attempted the King's life, a party of armed men proceeded to the cemetery during the night, overpowered the guards, exhumed the body of the criminal, placed it in a coffin, and carried it on board a vessel, keeping a strict watch over the guards until their purpose was accomplished.

AN AMERICAN WELCOME FOR BRITISH SAILORS.—The New York Board of Councilors have resolved to give an official welcome to the officers of her Majesty's ship *Retribution*, in the event of their arriving at New York. One red-hot Republican councillor opposed the proposition on the ground that he did not like the idea of paying honour to Queen Victoria. The officers of the Brooklyn navy yard are preparing to give the British a warm reception. The press, too, is unanimous in expressing their pleasure at the reception of Captain Hartstein in England.

INTERVIEW OF THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR WITH THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

On Saturday, Ferukh Khan, ambassador from Persia to the French Court, received a public audience from the Emperor, to whom his Excellency addressed the following speech:—

"Sire.—The friendly relations which so long existed between France and Persia having been again consolidated by a recent event, I have been charged by his Majesty, the very powerful Shah-in-Shah of Iran, my august Sovereign and benefactor, to bear to your Imperial Majesty the compliments and congratulations of my sovereign."

"It is a happiness for me that my mission has occurred at a period when France is loaded with so many blessings from Heaven—first, the glorious accession of your Imperial family to the throne of France; next, the birth of his Imperial Highness, the heir to your crown—an event which is a guarantee of the duration of your Majesty's dynasty, and a subject of joy to all Frenchmen, and to all the friends of France; next, the conclusion of peace between the Allied Powers and Russia in this same capital of France. Lastly, Sire, I come to France after the conclusion of a treaty between Persia and the powerful empire of France—an event which had ever been the object of the hopes and wishes of the two States, an object to which the efforts of the Governments and the Sovereigns of the two States tended, and which is now accomplished, with the assistance of God, conformably to the intimate desire of the august Sovereigns of France and of Iran."

The following is his Majesty's reply:—

"Mr. Ambassador,—I am glad that your sovereign has commissioned you to bring me his congratulations. When the war broke out in the East, I sought with pleasure to resume our ancient relations with Persia, and its neutrality was not useless to us. I now congratulate myself upon the treaty of commerce concluded between the two countries; for commercial relations, well established, always cement the friendship of peoples. It is with pain that I have learned that war has broken out between you and one of my most intimate allies; but I entertain sincere wishes that your mission in this part of the world may hasten the return of a durable peace. I thank you for the flattering things you say to me relative to France and the Imperial Prince, and I beg you to believe in my sentiments of good will towards yourself."

FILIBUSTERING TO MADAGASCAR.—A journal named the "Cernéen," published in the island of Mauritius, contains a proclamation, which the government has just issued, warning the inhabitants against an attempt which seems to have been made there to get up a filibustering expedition to Madagascar. The proclamation states that her Majesty Queen Ranavaloa of Madagascar, having recently expressed some apprehensions with regard to a supposed intention of the British government in Mauritius to assume the occupation of a part of her territories, the British government considers it necessary to warn all English or foreign residents in the island of Mauritius that they will render themselves liable to expulsion from it, if they are guilty of "any act which could tend to cast doubt upon the good faith of the English Government with respect to the amicable relations which exist between itself and the Government of Madagascar."

IRELAND.

THE BISHOPRIC OF CORK.—The Venerable William Fitzgerald, archdeacon of Kildare and rector of Monkstown, has been appointed by the Lord-Lieutenant to the Bishopric of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SAXON TYRANNY.—The Lord-Lieutenant recently appointed Mr. Hyde, of the University of Oxford, Master of the Limerick Diocesan School. This invasion of the Saxon roused the patriotism of several reverend gentlemen, and they prayed the Lord-Lieutenant to suspend the appointment, as Mr. Hyde was not educated in Dublin! Of course Lord Carlisle has declined compliance with this requisition. In his reply to the remonstrants, he says that he "should consider it an exhibition of great liberality if the graduates of Trinity College, Dublin, were to be excluded from holding appointments to schools and places of education in England, and he is not prepared to enforce a similar prohibition against the University of Oxford." The Dean of Limerick has explained that Mr. Hyde was not selected until all the men of Dublin University of equal ability had refused the office.

FORTUNATE ESCAPE.—The Cahir Garrison hounds met in the vicinity of Loughloher last week, and among the fashionables present to witness the meet was Miss Wyatt (sister-in-law of Mr. W. O'Ryan, of Bannha Castle), mounted on the mare Enchantress, which had distinguished herself greatly at the late occasion of the Bannha races. Some time after the hunt commenced Enchantress broke away, and dashed with headlong speed in the direction of Cahir, despite the utmost exertions of her fair rider. On the animal ran, and quickly reaching Cahir; its mad career was only stopped when it dashed against the iron railings in front of Cahir House, the late residence of the Earl of Glengall. Miss Wyatt, who had retained her seat all through, was thrown violently to the ground, and lay in an apparently lifeless state for a few moments, until the arrival of a surgeon, who, most fortunately, had seen the lady fall. He ran and lifted her up, and found that she had sustained no injury of a serious nature. The horse, a fine animal, for which but a few days previously its owner, Mr. O'Ryan, refused £150, died in three minutes after a spike having entered its neck.

MURDEROUS OUTRAGES.—A poor man, named James Duffy, died a few days since in Sligo, from the effects of a savage beating which he received from some men with whom he had been drinking in a public-house. Several persons have been arrested for the offence. In Wexford an old woman was fired at a few evenings since, and is not expected to survive the wound which she received on the occasion. A nephew of her late husband is in custody, as it is known that he owed her a grudge about the disposal of his uncle's property.

SCOTLAND.

THE FATE OF THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.—A case has for some time been before the Court of Session, Scotland, in which the questions are whether a naval officer who went out with the Franklin expedition is dead; and if so, when must he be held to have died? James Walter Fairholme, one of the officers of the Arctic expedition, was heir to property, and the interests of one of the parties to the suit depend on the question whether he died before 1852—that is, before the testator. After hearing the evidence of several Arctic navigators, the Lord Ordinary (Mackenzie) has reported the whole circumstances of the case to the Inner House, expressing his own opinion that there is thus strong presumptive evidence that Lieutenant Fairholme perished together with his companions some time prior to the end of 1852, and consequently that he predeceased his uncle, the testator, who died in May, 1853. His Lordship thinks that in these circumstances the pursuer, George Fairholme, is entitled to decree in his favour, but qualified by this condition, that before payment he should grant a bond with sufficient security to warrant the defender against all hazard from any claim to the money decreed for by Lieutenant Fairholme, or others in his right.

THE CONVICT M'LEAN.—A memorial has been sent to the Home Secretary from inhabitants of the town and county of Linlithgow, praying for a commutation of the sentence of death passed upon Peter M'Lean for the murder of Thomas Maxwell, on the road between Bathgate and Durhamtown, on the 19th of November last. The prisoner was convicted by a majority of the jury, but recommended to mercy, and was sentenced to be executed on the 2nd of February.

EXTRAORDINARY IDENTIFICATION.—On the night of Saturday, or early on the morning of Sunday last, the house of Major Smith, at Woodcroft, near Partick, was attempted by burglars. The thieves contrived to gain access to the house by smashing a pane of glass in one of the windows, and then removing the catch. A bell attached to the shutter, however, gave the alarm, and the Gallant Major, hearing the noise, at once sprung from his couch, procured firearms, and soon put the burglars to flight. On examining the window on the following morning, the point of a clasp-knife was found sticking in the wood. The police obtained the broken piece, and carefully preserved it till an owner should cast up. Soon after, a constable of the central division saw two fellows prowling about his beat, and not liking their appearance, took them into custody. They gave their names as James M'Case and Charles Williams; and on searching them, on M'Case was found a knife with a broken blade, to which the small piece found in the Major's window fitted to a nicety.

MELANCHOLY BOAT ACCIDENT IN ZETLAND.—A six-oar boat, belonging to the Luichness, left Lerwick, between eleven and twelve o'clock in the forenoon of Wednesday, the 14th instant, deeply laden. Besides the six fishermen, there were five other men, and a female. The boat was observed to have performed the voyage in safety until she passed Moula, but she was never afterwards seen. The alarm was first given by two persons who had missed their passage in the boat, and who subsequently had gone home by other conveyances; and the fears then entertained were confirmed by the boat, containing little or nothing of her cargo, drifting ashore at Nomeshead. None of the bodies has been found, but some quantity of the goods has since floated ashore. It is stated that the party were all perfectly sober. One of the young men was a bridegroom, and was conveying home material for the marriage feast. His bride had left in Lerwick, intending to return for her in a few days. Five or six of the party were married men, and have all left families.

ANOTHER PUBLIC PARK FOR GLASGOW.—The Glasgow Town Council, by a majority of thirty to fifteen, have agreed to purchase the lands of Pathhead, and other property on the south side of the city, for the sum of £30,000, for the purpose of constructing a third public park.

THE SAILORS' HOME, GLASGOW.—On Friday, 22nd, the Sailor's Home, Glasgow, was opened for the inspection of the public. During the day the various apartments of the institution, which are now fitted up in the most complete state, were visited by a vast number of persons. Among those who were present and expressed their hearty approbation with the entire arrangements, were Sir James Anderson, M.P., Mr. Hastie, M.P., and ex-Lord Provost Stewart.

THE PROVINCES.

AN ELECTION CANDIDATE IN TROUBLE.—A charge was preferred last week, before the Borough Magistrate, against Mr. E. Carden, one of the candidates for the representation of Southampton, by his landlord, for creating a great disturbance in the house on the previous night. It appears that the Learned Gentleman had carried off a bell-hound from some door, as an electriceering trophy, and after reaching home, being under the impression that there were burglars in the house, he made such an alarm as to rouse the whole of the inmates, and otherwise conducted himself in such an extraordinary manner as to compel his landlord to seek the advice of the magistrate. The landlord said he only wished to induce Mr. Carden to leave the house. The magistrates recommended Mr. Carden's landlord to telegraph to that gentleman's brother in London, Sir R. W. Carden, informing him of the facts, with a view to avoiding further trouble.

MR. MIALL, M.P., AT ROCHEDALE.—Mr. Miall, M.P., addressed a crowded meeting at the Public Hall, Rochdale, last week. The chair was occupied by Jacob Bright, Esq., mayor, who, in his opening remarks, condemned the foreign policy of our government. Mr. Miall, in a long speech, gave a résumé of the business of the past session, and especially condemned the continual interference of our government with the affairs of other nations. He also gave a statement of the measures to be brought forward in the coming session. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. G. Ashworth moved that the meeting, having heard Mr. Miall's address, is satisfied with the course of policy he has pursued, and have confidence in him as their representative. This was seconded by Mr. John Peirce, and carried unanimously.

A WOMAN'S WEAKNESS.—A foolish woman, residing at Manchester, has been victimised by a fortune-teller from Hull, named Elizabeth Robinson. The dupe is the daughter of a respectable farmer, named Big T, who at his death left her upwards of £100. When she went to consult the impostor she took £50 with her, of the greater portion of which she was soon freed. The sorceress professed that her victim's brothers and friends intended to possess themselves of all her money, and that, in order to defeat them, she had better go to Hull and live with her. No sooner said than done; the money was drawn from the bank, and the dove and the hawk went to live at Derby together, and ultimately in Manchester. In the meantime the husband of the prophetic extracted £30 from the confiding woman, and departed. Robinson had, during this time, obtained such influence over the mind of her victim, that she kept her in complete subjection, not allowing her to communicate with persons out of doors. There were two lovers in the house, and she acted patiently as the servant. At length the poor victim got a person to write to her brothers, who had lost all trace of her. They went to Manchester, obtained the assistance of a detective, and proceeded to a house in Salford, where they found their sister, thoroughly "plucked" and dejected.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—Bridget Sheelin (an "unfortunate woman") lodged in a court in Liverpool. On Wednesday week she was confined of a still-born child, and on Thursday she died. The miserable hotel in which she lay is so low that a man can scarcely stand erect without knocking his head against the blackened ceiling. Her dying moments, in this miserable place were rendered still more miserable than, under any circumstances, they must have been, by the conduct of a man named Reynolds, with whom she lived, who forced a pipe between her teeth, clinched in the throes of dissolution, and bade her smoke. An inquest was held on the unfortunate creature, and there was found a mark on her side, as if from a kick, but no evidence of violence could be established. A post mortem examination proved that death had been caused by inflammation of the lungs, and a verdict of "Natural causes" was returned.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD ART EXHIBITION.—When the Art Treasures Exhibition in Manchester was projected, the suggestion of a special and separate exhibition of the works of local and resident artists, deceased as well as living, was made by the corporate authorities of Salford, who are erecting a handsome and spacious new picture gallery in Peel Park, and offered the use of it for this purpose. The local artists gladly availed themselves of this offer, and the exhibition is to be opened before the end of March, and is to remain open during the summer, so that visitors to the Art Treasures Exhibition will have an opportunity of seeing it. The admission is to be free, but the committee have determined upon connecting an art-union with it.

FAIL OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE.—The traffic of the line of railway between Coventry and Nuneaton (a branch of the London and North-Western) was completely stopped on Monday morning by the falling in of a viaduct at Cowden, a short distance from Coventry. The line from the latter city communicates direct from Leamington with Tamworth, Derby and the north. The bridge, which is of several arches, is of stone, and carries over the rails a very important old turnpike road of the district; but fortunately at the time the accident occurred, owing to the absence of traffic, not the slightest injury befell either the road or railway travellers. A train had passed under the bridge only a short time before, but, besides the destruction of property, and the detention of trains, no injury was sustained.

IRON DISCOVERED AT SEEND.—The discoveries of iron in the neighbourhood of Seend, Wiltshire, proceed, and several furnaces are to be erected at once. Various persons are testifying their belief in the value of these discoveries by offering fabulous prices for land at Seend and the neighbourhood. The Duke of Somerset and the trustees of the late Mr. Ludlow Bruges own about half the land where the richest ore is found.

INSUBORDINATION AND THE "CAT."—A man, who has only been a few months in the Royal Marine Artillery corps at Portsmouth, and been confined several times for bad conduct, incurred a debt of 8s. for slops he had "taken up;" this sum the captain of his company said should be put against his account on the books of the corps, whereupon the man used an insulting expression, and said he would do no more soldiering until he was paid; this led to a court-martial, at which he was adjudged to receive fifty lashes. On his being taken towards the place of punishment under escort, he broke away from his guards, and rushed upon Colonel Parke (the commandant of the corps), and gave him a tremendous blow in the face, knocking him to the ground and cutting him in the face very severely. The man was speedily overpowered and led to the barracks, where the fifty lashes were inflicted. He will now be tried for striking the Colonel, which will be rather a more serious affair than that for which he was flogged.

A VOLUNTEER MARTYR.—The Rev. W. J. Bennett, vicar of Frome, formerly of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, has addressed a letter to his diocesan, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in which he avows his entire sympathy with Archdeacon Denison. He says:—"When I see a brother priest and dignitary of our Church in our own diocese suffering or likely to suffer, the penalty of deprivation, because he has taught a certain doctrine of the Catholic faith, and in my conscience I find that I myself am teaching the very same doctrine without any perceptible shade of difference, it is quite impossible that, while the penalty of the law is carried into effect in his case, I should stand by in silence and be held harmless." He therefore prays investigation into his own case.

UNSAFE MINES.—Messrs. Whittle and Entwistle were charged at Wigan on Saturday, with a breach of the 4th general rule of the Colliery Act, which provides that every working and pumping pit or shaft, where the natural strata, under any circumstances, were not safe, should be securely cased or lined. Mr. Hogson, Government Inspector, deposed that he found two shafts, worked by the defendants, which were neither cased nor lined, and were therefore insecure; the natural strata consisting of loose metal and shale, with water running down the sides. One of these shafts had since been rendered partially secure, but the other, in spite of the inspector's complaint, remained as before. The penalty incurred was a sum not less than five pounds. The defendants pleaded guilty, but represented that they had had to contend with great difficulties. The workings, also, were in a very bad state, and they had done all they could to make things right. The magistrates, under these circumstances, determined to deal leniently with the case, and imposed a fine of 40s. and costs, amounting altogether to £5; ordering, at the same time, that the defendants should cease or line the shaft to the satisfaction of the inspector within two months.

MR. ADDERLEY, M.P., ON THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THIRTY YEARS.—Mr. Adderley, M.P., delivered an interesting lecture, last week, to the members of the St. Martin's Working Men's Association at Birmingham, on the political history of England from the peace down to the close of Sir Robert Peel's administration. There was a numerous audience, and the Hon. Gentleman's lecture, which consisted mainly of a recapitulation of the facts with which most of our readers are familiar, was listened to with much attention.

PECULIAR CASE OF SELF-MURDER.—Some time since a private soldier named James Johnson, of the 88th Regiment, gave himself up to the authorities as the murderer of James Pickersgill, at Hull, in October last, by striking him on the head with a hammer, and then throwing the body into the Humber. The river and the docks were at once carefully dragged to discover the body, or at least some vestige of it, but all search proved fruitless, since James Johnson, the self-accused murderer, and James Pickersgill, are one and the same person.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO THE EARL OF HAREWOOD.—On Saturday morning, while the Earl of Harewood was out with the Bramham Moor hounds, he was suddenly seen to fall from his horse. On being taken up, it was found that his Lordship had sustained such a fracture of the skull as placed his life in danger. On the following morning the operation of trepanning was performed, and we are happy to say that no unfavourable symptoms supervened. The precise cause of the accident cannot be stated, as no person was sufficiently near to his Lordship at the time to observe it, but it is supposed that the horse which he rode—a young animal—got its feet entangled in a sheep net just after leaping a fence, and in its efforts to extricate itself, threw the Earl to the ground and kicked him on the head.

OPENING OF THE SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF ART.—The new School in Arundel Street, Sheffield, was inaugurated on Monday evening by a conversation, at which one of the most brilliant assemblages was present ever witnessed in Sheffield. The different rooms of the building were decorated with paintings, statues, and photographs, kindly lent for the occasion by gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood. Among those present were Mr. J. A. Roebuck, Esq., M.P., the Mayor, the Master Cutler, and the Rev. Canon Sale, D.D.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

GALF OFF LIVERPOOL.—LOSS OF LIFE.—On Friday morning, during a heavy gale which prevailed at Liverpool, the ship *Concordation* struck on Bur-o-Bank. The crew came off in the life-boat. The captain, first mate, and a boy, who remained on board to the last, were drowned, and the ship became a total wreck. The first intimation of the catastrophe was given by a quantity of pork and other provisions being seen floating near Beale. As soon as possible after this, two steamers were despatched to aid in saving what might remain of the ill-fated vessel. On reaching the spot where she and stranded, no traces of her could be found.—The ship *Wanderer*, from Liverpool to Oporto, put back on Saturday, having been ruck by a sea which washed fourteen of her hands overboard, eleven of whom unfortunately were lost.—On Saturday, the screw-steamer *Arcadia* came into collision with a flat in the river, whereby two men were unfortunately drowned.

ACCIDENT TO THE MAIL STEAMER VIVID.—On Saturday morning, at about four o'clock, the Royal Belgian steamer, *Rubis*, on the way from Dover to Ostend, perceived a vessel making signals of distress off Dunkirk. On getting near the Commander found it was the English mail steamer *Vivid*, which left Ostend the previous evening for Dover, and which had broken the axle of its wheels. This accident had caused such a complete derangement in the machinery, that the *Vivid* could get no further. The *Rubis* hastened to lend assistance; and after many efforts succeeded in taking the steamer in tow and leading it on to Calais.

THE STEAMER TYNE.—The steam tug *Aid* returned from the Tyne on Sunday evening, having on board Captain Vincent and nearly the whole of the men who have been endeavouring to float the stranded ship. After working at the pumps for several successive hours, it was found that the water did not decrease, and consequently it was supposed there were other leakages than those at present ascertained. Except by half a dozen men, the *Tyne* was abandoned; but should the vessel hold together, a further attempt was to be made when the weather became more favourable.

THE MAIL STEAMER VIOLET.—The identity of the passenger lost in the mail packet *Violet* has now been proved. It is ascertained that the deceased was a Prussian Baron von Issing, captain of the 7th company of the 15th Regiment of infantry, in garrison at Minden. This officer obtained leave of absence to go over to London on family affairs, taking with him 500 dollars in cash, and bills to the amount of 2,000 dollars. When the news arrived of the loss of the *Violet*, this officer's wife (who is a sister of the cantatrice, Sophie Cruvell, now Baroness Vigier) caused inquiries to be made in London, which were answered by the statement that the letters of credit in possession of the Baron had not been presented for payment. His portrait was then sent to Ostend, where it was recognised as that of the courageous but ill-fated passenger who determined to venture in the *Violet* when the other three passengers returned to shore on that tempestuous night.

WRECK OF THE NORTHERN BELLE.—It will be remembered by our readers, that the Victory lugger went down with all hands in an attempt to save the crew of the American ship *Northern Belle*, off Kingsgate. Nine men were lost in the lugger, and we are glad to hear that a concert in aid of their widows and orphans is to be given on Tuesday next, at Myddleton Hall, Upper Street, Islington. Tickets may be had of Collard and Collard, Cheapside, and of the principal music-sellers.

PALACE AT ISPAHAN.

ENCLOSED by orchards and plantations, and situated on a fine plain on the Zenderood, where that river is crossed by several noble bridges, Ispahan is still a populous and important city. It was formerly the capital of Persia, and, in the seventeenth century, one of the wealthiest cities in Asia. But during the Afghan invasion, its walls were destroyed, and the city itself reduced to a state of desolation, in which much of the site remains.

The principal remaining edifices are the great bazaar of Shah Abbas, numerous magnificent buildings, around an open space called "the Maiden," upwards of a hundred mosques, and various fine palaces scattered throughout the city, the most remarkable being "the palace of the forty pillars," the residence of the later sovereigns.

Our illustration represents the garden view of a palace at Ispahan. The residences in Persia are generally composed of two main buildings, connected by a hall looking on to a garden planted with cypresses, the choicest flowers and shrubs, and in the centre of which is a pool of water. The reception room is elaborately painted and gilded; the ceiling, which is supported by carved pillars, is painted in fresco, and the walls are hung round with portraits and pictures of battles and hunting scenes; and in the centre of the room is a basin or pool of water surrounded with flowers. The furniture, which is simple, consists of a handsome carpet; and at each end a raised platform or bench, covered with felt, on which are placed numerous cushions. That part of the house which is occupied by the female part of the family is kept very private; only near relations are admitted. The doors are constantly locked, and the windows are strongly barred, so that it is impossible to hold any communication with the outer world.

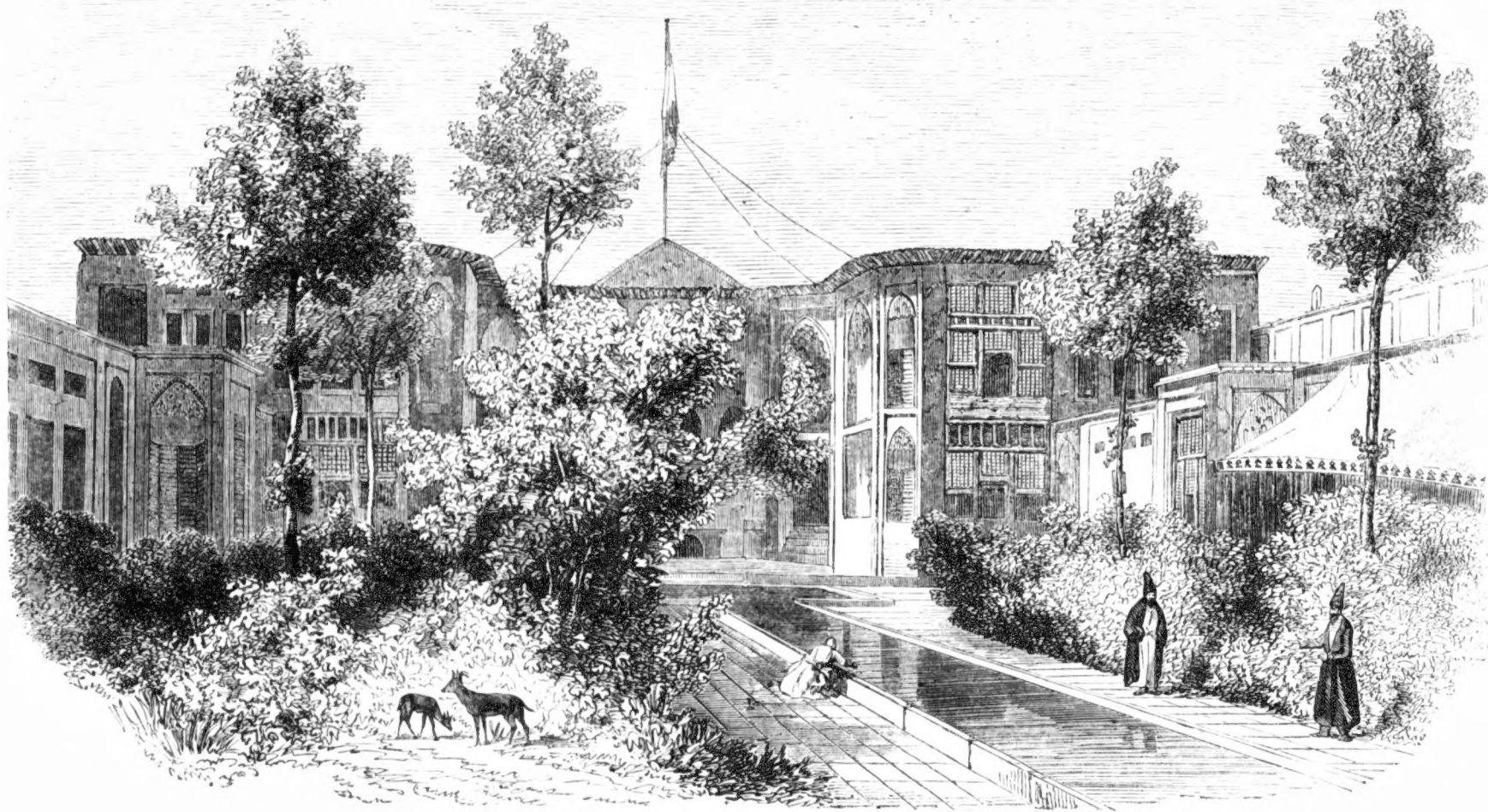
THE RUSSIAN ROAD TO INDIA.

THE Persian war, as it is called, once more awakens the suspicion of Russian designs on India. It has been argued over and over again that the Russian armies could never traverse the countless leagues of desert country lying between them and their end; and on that account the lickerish regards which Russia has so long cast upon our Indian empire are now, by almost all men, considered vain. We still think, however, that it is well to keep in sight the roads by which the Muscovite might find his way to the object of an ambition so long cherished.

The original basis of a Russian expedition against India is necessarily the Caspian Sea, which is simply a Russian lake—not so much as a fishing-boat being allowed to stir upon its waters, without a formal permit from the paramount authority. From the eastern shores of the Caspian, two main routes (each admitting of some variations in detail) lead directly to the banks of the Indus. The first of these proceeds across the desert land intervening between the waters of the Caspian and those of the smaller inland sea of Aral, and so on to Khiva. Upon this line it is alleged that the Russians have already sunk wells, stage by stage, in the desert, and taken other measures to secure their means of communication. Quitting Khiva, the invaders would probably observe a loose parallel with the general course of the Oxus, taking every advantage of the capabilities of that fine stream, up to that point where its navigation ceases to be easy. The onward route would then lie through Balkh, Khoodoon, and Baman, over the passes of the Hindoo-Koosh, to Cabul. The second of the two main lines has its commencement in the neighbourhood of Astrabad, the south-eastern point of the Caspian, and leads, by Meshed, to Herat.

Now, a very little consideration induces us to set down the first or more northerly of these lines of approach as altogether out of the question. It is much longer than the other; a large portion of desert country has to be traversed; the wildest tribes are to be encountered; supplies could not be obtained; water is often scarce, and the greatest difficulty would be experienced in transporting the matériel of a large army over mountain passes, at an elevation of 13,000 feet above the level of the ocean. And there is little doubt that the Russian government has long since been warned by its agent's against contemplating an advance by this line. Indeed, the then notorious Viekovitch, addressing his superior, from Cabul, early in the year 1837, writes somewhat as follows:—"The geographical position of Afghanistan makes it the only route through which a conqueror can pass from Candahar to the very shores of the ocean. Barren deserts, which can never be passed by any kind of military force, on the north and north-west, the way from Toorkistan is hemmed in by the strong passes of the Hindoo-Koosh, which offer only two roads, impracticable during four months, for the passage of military stores or supplies to support an army."

Under these circumstances, we can have little hesitation in presuming that an invading force would give preference to the route from Astrabad to Herat, which passes through the important city of Meshed. The country presents no impediments to the march of troops; and as for the road, Count Simonitch, the Russian envoy, having expressed a fear lest infirm health might prevent his accompanying the late Shah of Persia in his expedition of 1837, was told that he might, if so disposed, travel every inch of the way in his own carriage with perfect safety. It is, moreover, not unworthy of notice that a sufficient force advancing along this road can hold the wild Toorcomans completely in check. Thus Lord Auckland, in a despatch dated Simla, May 12, 1838, says:—"The rapid and successful advance of Persia in the investment of Herat, and the well-judged diversion by which the Shah has been able to cut off, apparently, every hope of succour to the place from any of the friendly tribes in Toorkistan, have intervened to battle all our calculations." We may now suppose an invading force arrived, without encountering any material difficulties, at



PALACE AT ISFAHAN, PERSIA.

HERAT, THE KEY OF INDIA, of which place it may be as well to give a succinct account. The territory, of which Herat is the chief town, is the last remnant of the Afghan monarchy founded by Ahmed Shah Douranee, after the death of his master, Nadir Shah, in 1747. Since the decay of monarchical government in Afghanistan, Persia has ever looked upon this province with a greedy eye. Nay, the Persian government has, of late years, openly avowed a belief that the possession of Herat would give the power to disturb the English in India, or to give a passage thither to their enemies, whenever the Persians should think proper to do so. In opposition to this convenient doctrine, it is justly argued, on the other hand, that Afghanistan must be considered the out-lying frontier of India. No European nation has any relations, either commercial or political, with the former country. The British are, therefore, entitled to regard any interference with jealousy; and all the best authorities agree that the integrity of Herat must be maintained, as the only safe and sure means of opposing the efforts of Persia to annihilate the independence of Afghanistan.

Herat, the capital—the Aria of Arian—stands in lat. 34 deg. 50 min.

north, and long. 62 deg. 30 min. east, at an elevation of 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. It is 200 miles S.E. by E. of Meshed, and 300 miles west of Cabul. Prior to the siege of 1837-38, the town was reckoned to contain about 45,000 inhabitants; but that event, and other succeeding calamities, will probably have reduced the number much below the amount named. A ditch, mound, and bastioned wall enclose the town, in the form of an oblong area, of which the greater length is nearly a mile. There are five gates; and four arcaded bazaars, similar to those of Cabul, meet under a dome in the centre of the place. The real strength of the fortifications consists in two covered ways or *fausse-brayes*, on the exterior slope of the embankments, one within and the other without the ditch, the lower one being on a level with the surrounding country. The citadel has also a wet ditch. Herat lies in a well-watered and fertile plain, surrounded by hills.

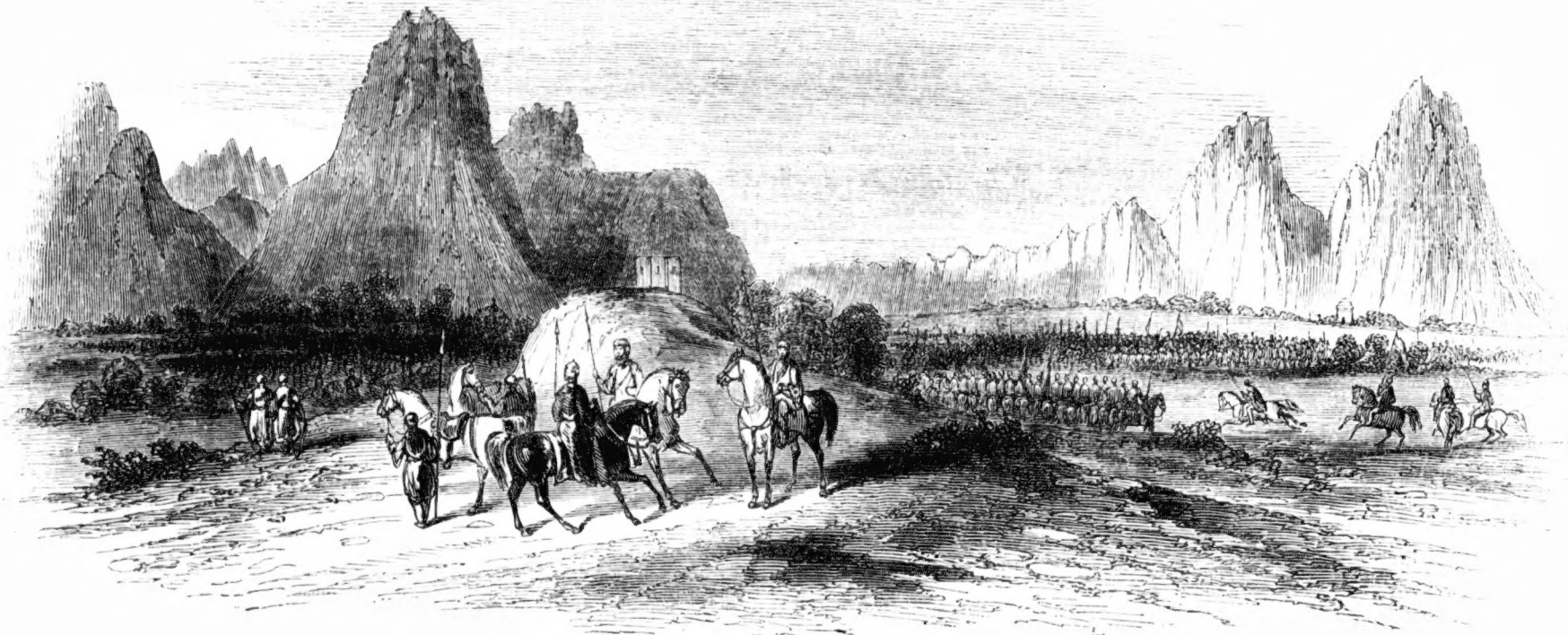
But how are the invaders to proceed? Tradition tells of, and modern maps indicate, a direct route from Herat to Cabul; but practically, no such thing exists. There may indeed be points of descent between these two places, where troops free of incumbrance, or with only mountain ar-

tillery, might—if not actively opposed—effect a passage over the Hindoo-Koosh. But a modern army, destined to invade British India, would not attempt to make its way by any other route than by that of

CANDAHAR, THE GATE OF INDIA.

In reaching this point, from Herat, a well-organised force would experience nothing beyond ordinary difficulties. Perhaps it might be necessary to advance by small detachments, in succession; for the country to be traversed is described as generally waste and barren, though many oases occur in the shape of fertile valleys.

Candahar lies to the south of, and nearly midway between, Herat and Cabul. The modern city is comprised within a wall of some three miles in circumference—not in good repair, and surrounded by a ditch twenty-four feet wide and ten deep. The wall is twenty and a half feet thick at the base, fourteen and half feet thick at the top, and twenty-seven high. It has six gates, defended by double bastions, the angles protected by large circular towers. The population is estimated at about 100,000. Candahar is on a table land, surrounded by a well cultivated plain. Detached hills rise from the plain on the south and east; on



THE COUNTRY ROUND CANDAHAR—SIRDAR TROOPS.

The north and west, they appear more like a broken range of hills, varying from 300 to 2,000 feet in height. There is neither tree nor shrub to be found on them; and it has been said that there are scarcely in the whole world such dismal-looking hill countries as these.

The banks of the Furrah, Khansh, and some other streams, are, however, well cultivated, and those of the Helmund extremely productive. There is a good deal of sandy desert, and occasional scarcity of water. The Helmund, when full, is an awkward river to cross; but there are no obstacles of mountain or pass to signify. Candahar is the western capital of modern Afghanistan, and the head-quarters of the Douranee tribe.

In a military and political point of view, Candahar is more exposed than Cabul; for the frontier toward the latter is more easily defended, having several defensible passes, while the former would be exposed by the fall of Herat. The Sirdars hold nine-tenths of the land; and, though neither rich nor very powerful, boast of 3,000 good cavalry, 1,000 infantry, and some few guns. They are besides closely in league with the predatory hordes of their own and neighbouring states.

THE ROADS FROM CANDAHAR.
Having reached Candahar, we are on comparatively known ground. The routes towards the Indus hence are three—two principal, and one that may be termed intermediate, both by position and character.

No. 1 is the line through Gluznee, Cabul, Jellalabad, and the Khyber Pass, to Peshawur.

No. 2 leads by the Khojuck Pass, the Peisheen Valley, Quetta, the Bolan Pass, Dadur, and the Desert of Upper Scinde, to Shikarpoor and Sukkur.

No. 3, the most direct, but least practicable, would lead an invading foe from Candahar, by Boree, across the Sukhee Surwur Pass, to Dera Gaze Khan, on the Indus. This route was traversed by the Emperor Baber, with his army, on their return from their Indian campaign of 1505. It is still used by couriers bearing express despatches. But the Lohanee Afghan merchants at the present day prefer as a caravan route the better-known road by the river Goomul, through the Pass of Goolairee.

A very large invading force might attempt to advance by all of these routes simultaneously.



THE COUNT OF FLANDERS.

These are the main lines of approach from west to east. Each is capable of being slightly varied, but the end is the same in every case.

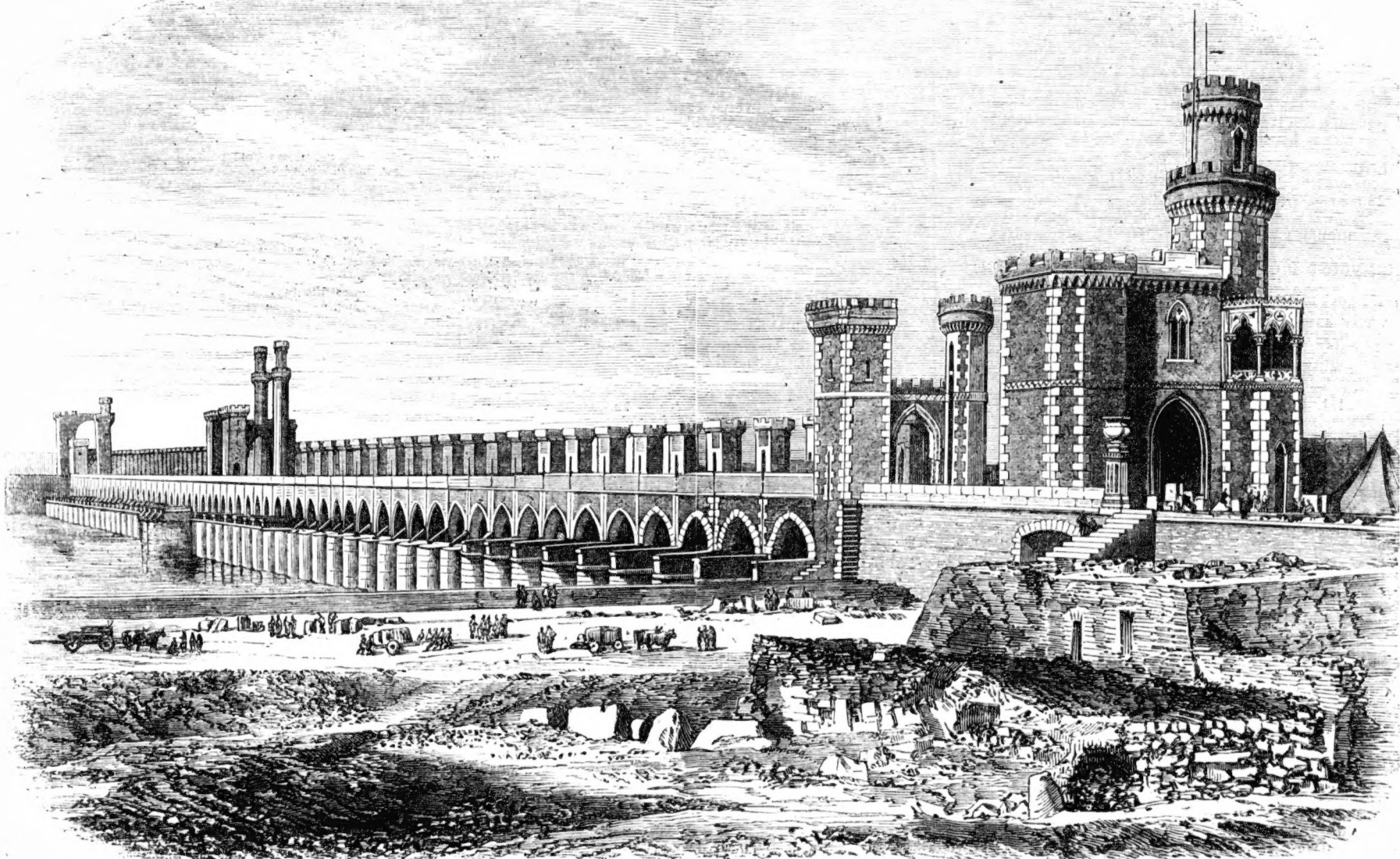
THE COUNT OF FLANDERS

AMONG the royal and noble personages, whose names have recently been figuring in the public papers, as guests of her Majesty in the historic halls of the old Kings of England, our readers have doubtless observed that of the Count of Flanders. The portrait of this youthful Prince, connected with our Royal family by so many ties, will, we believe, be regarded with some degree of interest. We therefore gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of his visit to Windsor to present it in our pages.

The interest felt by the people of this country in the Royal family of which the Count of Flanders is a member, can be accounted for without difficulty. It is now rather more than forty years since the present King of the Belgians—then in his twenty-seventh year—married the daughter of George IV. The popularity of the Princess Charlotte was in her lifetime greater, perhaps, than that of any Princess who ever sprung from the House of Brunswick; and, after her melancholy death, there were few who did not regard her memory with real affection. The husband of a woman so beloved by the people, naturally shared in the favour she enjoyed; and we believe that, to this date, some rays of popular favour are reflected on his progeny.

Our readers will remember that in 1832, Leopold, having in the previous year been elected King of the Belgians, espoused a daughter of Louis Philippe, then King of the French. By this Royal lady he has three sons. Of these the eldest is married to an Archduchess of Austria; the second is Philip, Count of Flanders—the subject of the accompanying portrait.

The Count of Flanders was born on the 24th of March, 1837, and is now in his twentieth year. He has an idea of making himself useful, and takes much interest in agriculture. Moreover, he is President of the Agricultural Society of Belgium; and every year distributes prizes to those who distinguish themselves practically in promoting the progress of that important branch of industry.



GIGANTIC ENGINEERING WORKS FOR THE DAMMING OF THE NILE.

THE DAMMING OF THE NILE.

We this week give an illustration of this gigantic work, which now, nearly completed, stands among the crumbling ruins of the monuments of ancient Egypt, a splendid specimen of modern art and engineering skill. The project of damming the Nile was conceived by Mehemet Ali, who, notwithstanding the counsels of his Ministers and European opinion against the possibility of such an undertaking proving successful, entrusted the erection of the works to a French engineer. This gentleman, who had long been in his service, by his influence induced the Viceroy to undertake and complete works that have proved of great benefit to the country of which the latter made himself the ruler, and to the progress of which he devoted his energies.

The first stone was laid on the 9th of April, 1847, by Mehemet Ali, assisted by priests of the Mahometan faith, who, according to an ancient custom, prayed over the blood of fifty buffaloes slaughtered in the presence of the representatives of foreign Powers, the high dignitaries of the country, and others, whose presence had been invited by the Viceroy. The ceremony concluded with a banquet given to the fifteen thousand workmen who had been called from every part of the country to toil at these works, the object of which we will at once proceed to explain.

The ground in Egypt yields two crops during the year. The produce of the winter season consists of corn, clover, and flax, which are watered by the natural rising of the Nile during the month of September; while the produce of the summer season, consisting of indigo, sugar, cotton, &c., has to be watered by artificial means. This process adds so greatly to the pence of cultivation, that the landholders and husbandmen are content to realise the one crop. Mehemet Ali, with a view to increase the produce of the land, determined to construct this dam; so that at the falling of the Nile, the surface of the water shall be kept sufficiently above the level of the surrounding country, that the summer crops may be inundated and cultivated with the same advantages as those of the winter. The damming of the Nile will prevent excessive floods, and will assure to the whole of Lower Egypt, as far as Cairo, the quantity of water necessary for the irrigation of the land.

Such is the object Mehemet Ali had in view, and which, had he lived a few years longer, he would have seen completed. The dam, as designed by Mougel Bey, the engineer who is superintending the works, consists of two sluice gates placed at the head of the Delta; one on the Rosetta, the other on the Damietta branch. They are connected by a curved quay, 4,500 feet in length, which forms a buttress, by which the waters of the stream are separated. The distance between the two floodgates is about half a league, and is occupied above by the waters of the Nile, which from this spot presents a grand coup d'œil.

Three canals, 330 feet in width, are fed from this body of water, which by this means is conveyed into Lower Egypt. The first crosses the Delta, the second the province of Alexandria, and the third the eastern province which separates Egypt from Syria. Our illustration represents the actual state of the dam erected over the Rosetta branch, which is upwards of 1,500 feet in length, and has an arch for barges upwards of forty-five feet width.

SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON,

Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet.

TO BE ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their subscribers that they have in preparation

A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED

MAP OF LONDON,

ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE,

With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and, although it is an exact counterpart, not only as regards size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by Direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 5s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at

THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY NUMBER OF THE PAPER, NAMELY, 2½d.,

a price which, even in these days of cheapness, is without a parallel.

Specimens are now ready for the trade; and it is expected that the Map itself will be issued with the number of the "Illustrated Times," for February 21. The enormous demand which is certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every Letter-writer in the Kingdom, makes it necessary that immediate orders should be given to the various Agents.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a series of

HIGHLY FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE

after the

CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

TITLE-PAGE, INDEX, AND PREFACE

TO VOLUME THIRD OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

are now ready and may be procured of the Agents, Price ONE PENNY. Persons finding any difficulty in obtaining copies, will, on forwarding Two Stamps to this Office, receive the Title-sheet by return of Post.

CASES FOR BINDING VOLUME THE THIRD

Are also ready. Price 2s. each.

* * A few copies of the HISTORY OF THE RUGELEY POISONINGS, including a long Memoir of Palmer, and a full Report of his Trial, illustrated with Sixty Engravings, remain on sale at the ILLUSTRATED TIMES Office, Price 6d., or free by post 8d. Persons desiring copies must make early application for them.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

I. K.—The Engravings after the Turner pictures will not be printed separately from the paper.

N. B.—We have to repeat, that we cannot devote our time or space to answering the many inquiries which correspondents address to us on subjects interesting only to themselves.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1857.

"HANDS TO THE PUMP."

In the sanguine moments of all of us we are apt to think how agreeable it would be if London were clean, sound, and healthy. It is an enlightened age, no doubt; why, then, does our city present such a contrast to that, the cloaca of which (made centuries before

Christ) have been described by a great scholar as works little inferior in magnitude of design to the Pyramids?

A very excellent little pamphlet has come in our way on the subject of London drainage and sewage. The publisher is Longman; the author is that eminent Dr. James Copland, whose "Dictionary" is one of the great achievements of the time, a physician of the first rank, a writer equally remarkable. He discusses some of the notions now current on this very important subject; and (on the eve of a Session which promises to be rife of utilitarian discussions) we cannot do better than keep our readers informed of it. Our remarks will be useful, at all events, if they direct attention to the pamphlet itself.

It was the terrible cholera of 1832 which first made the public take to this subject in real earnest. Parliamentary committees, Health of Towns Commissions, &c., have followed; and one kind of "ventilation"—that of the general topic—has, at all events, been carried out. Nevertheless, we are still undecided as to the steps to be taken: some persons recommending great schemes of wholesale drainage; others criticising these, and recommending nothing; and a still larger section holding their noses in patience, to see what time will produce. Let us just glance at the dangers as they still exist after all this controversy.

It is obvious that the discharges of a great city—of which discharges it gets so clumsily clear—are pregnant with deadly and dangerous qualities. Exuvie, animal and human, undergo immediately, and continue to undergo, various changes: gases and other vapours, salts and acids, are immediately produced; all intended by nature for ultimate benefit to plants, but incompatible with healthy human life in the state of which we are now speaking. Thus, bad effects of course become worse under congenial conditions—in narrow streets, close yards, &c.—and these, accordingly, are haunted by disease constantly; not to speak of occasions when disease becomes epidemic and extended. Be it remarked, too, that the "discharges" in question are pronounced by Dr. Copland to be most dangerous in the "earliest stages of decomposition," before they get away to the large sewers from the places in which they are produced. Hence the importance of meeting the danger at home. It is a very little danger, inasmuch as its effects are very gradually produced. There may be much danger, without much alarm. "Debility," and such half-perceptible disorders, being the earliest created; while predisposition to disease in general is an invariable result of the influence.

What, then, is to be done with the sewage which now, from a score of foul sources, goes languidly to the Thames?

Our writer is not of opinion that we could by removing the London sewage leave the river pure. More or less contaminated it must ever be, so long as its banks are seats of commerce and manufactures. Nor does he look with favour on the engineering schemes for carrying away the sewage to distant parts. For example, there is the plan of Mr. Bazalgette. He proposes to construct five great trucks—two on the south, three on the north of the river—into which the subordinate drains shall run. Let the reader here open his map, and follow the lines of two of these. One is to run "from Kenal Green, through Bayswater to Oxford Street, Holborn to Hackney;" the other, "from Brompton, through Chelsea, Pimlico, along the Strand, Fleet Street, through the City, to Blackwall and Bow." The Doctor points out what a serious matter this must prove to the people dwelling in these great thoroughfares. "London," he says, "will be as deeply, more generally, and not less fatally, cut up into trenches as the grounds surrounding Sebastopol." He is alluding to the depths of cutting required into earth full of the animal decay of centuries, to the consequent emanations, and to the very slight descent, or fall, which so long a distance will give, with the consequent "slow current" of the matter. Other dangerous consequences are pointed out, which we cannot do justice to in the space at our disposal, but which are so clearly described, that we trust the public will give them profound attention. The expenses, too, would be enormous; and should the sewage be carried to Essex, the injurious effects of its marshes will be augmented, and the easterly winds blowing on London will be foully loaded.

Dr. Copland, therefore, sets his face against these great engineering schemes. His own wish is to see an extensive employment of deodorising and disinfecting materials brought to bear; for the engineering feasibility of which he appeals to the works of Leicester. Employ these agents, and you can remove many parts of the sewage without danger in carts, wagons, &c.; while by using among them wood, charcoal, soot, and the like, the sewage itself will not lose the qualities which make it useful as manure. Instead of the sewers alluded to above (as recommended by the engineer to the Board of Works), he would have drains in the higher parts of the vicinity of London on both sides of the Thames, terminating in trunk sewers opening into disinfected and deodorising reservoirs on the banks of the river. At certain of the reservoirs the sewage to be de-infected—its solid part conveyed away for manure, and its water (thus made innocuous) allowed to flow into the river. The drains should be constructed (he urges) with the shortest possible fall to the deodorising reservoirs,—to aid which the houses must have an abundant supply of water.

For further details of this—the latest contribution of science to the great question of the health of this town—we refer our readers to the pamphlet itself. It is written with great force and clearness, and, in our opinion, will have a most beneficial effect on the settlement of the question.

THE ENDLESS STRAP.

A QUARTER of a century has nearly elapsed since the Pro-Slavery party in the West Indies hit upon a notable scheme for diverting the public attention, and warding off the public indignation, from the horrors of African slavery, and its scarcely less barbarous successor, negro apprenticeship, by denouncing the cruelties inflicted on the "white slaves" of England, the abominations of the regimental cat-o'-nine-tails, the intolerable evils of the stocks and the pillory, and especially the barbarities exercised towards women and children in factories. An honourable member for Fless and Blood (for the Slaveholders had no lack of advocates in Parliament) produced a gigantic three-thonged whip in the House of Commons, and, cracking it sonorously in full debate, declared it to be the identical flagellum with which the unfortunate factory workers were beaten. The denunciation of these abuses, due, in the commencement, to purely interested motives, had eventually what the public were justly entitled to believe would prove to be a beneficial result in the first Factory Committee. Commissions were sent down to the manufacturing districts; more voluminous reports were made, and a most scandalous and atrocious system of cruelty to defenceless women and girls was laid bare. An immense Blue Book, of some eleven hundred pages, grew (of course) out of all these examinations and reports; and it is to be found to this day on the shelves of the British Museum Reading Room. Half-an-hour's immersion in its pages will bring the reader to the surface again saturated with accounts of children beaten and bruised from head to foot, of young girls brutally scourged by overseers, of grown women cudgelled and strapped, and rope-sanded and jillyrollered.

The exposure of this revolting state of things was so complete, that the public were but too ready to imagine that the ruffianly system of woman-

beating in factories would be at once repressed, and that any overseer convicted of cruelty to factory workers would be punished with the utmost severity of the law. The negroes had governmental protectors in the West Indies, and every illegal lash laid on a negro apprentice's back rendered his master liable to fine and imprisonment: of course, reasoned the good-natured, easy-going public, the white and free operatives of Britain would be sure, in future, of equal protection and equal immunity from violence.

How far this supposition has been borne out by the result we leave those of our readers to judge who have perused the report of certain cruelties alleged to have been committed at the factory of Messrs. Lees and Booth, silk manufacturers of Patricroft, near Manchester. One William Tabner, an overlooker in this factory, was charged before Mr. Trafford, at Manchester, on Wednesday se'night, with assaulting a young woman named Ann Milany, one of the "hands" employed in the establishment by beating her with a strap. The complainant swore that this man not only beat her, but pushed her with great violence against a box. She declared (hear this all sympathisers with the ill-used "Quassie!") that she was *enclave* when this ruffianism was perpetrated upon her. Other witnesses swore that Tabner was the only man present in the room where the women and children work; and that it was his habit to walk about with a strap, and with it to beat the workpeople. His habit! a pleasant habit truly, "of an afternoon." Other witnesses, again, deposed that it was Tabner's "daily practice" to beat children (female children, mind) with the strap. One witness swore that she had seen him beat children with it "shamefully;" and it was further stated that the manager of the factory frequently came into the room while his overlooker was walking about with the strap in his hand. The finishing stroke to this calendar of cruelties was given in the evidence of police-sergeant Barlow, who stated that one of the "hands," named Welsh, had been so severely beaten that she was one "mass of bruises from the top of her head to the soles of her feet;" he "never saw such a sight in his life;" he "never saw a Christian beaten in such a manner, and he should be sorry to treat a brute so." We imagine you would, Sergeant Barlow. This witness also informed the Magistrate that "complaints had been made of the violence of this man (Tabner), for the last eight or nine months." Eight or nine months! Does not this, and (if it be true) the presence of the manager in the room, while his driver—we beg pardon, overlooker—was promenading among his trembling slaves with his strap, show clearly that our commissions and committees, Lords' reports and Commons' reports, have failed in introducing justice and humanity into factories; have failed in humanising overlookers' hearts; that brutal and personal violence are not isolated exceptions (else one complaint of Tabner's violence would have been sufficient to procure his immediate dismissal from employment), but part of an organised system of cruelty and oppression; and that, as usual under such systems, the victims are the weakest and the most defenceless—the women and the children.

As the examining magistrate, Mr. Trafford, did not deal with the case summarily, but committed the defendant for trial at the Sessions, it would be premature to express our own opinion concerning Mr. Tabner, and in speaking our mind as to the abominable outrages sworn to have been committed in his factory. Till "the judges are ranged—a terrible show," then, we must perforce give the overlooker of Messrs. Lees and Booth, the customary respite from castigation, which, verbally and physically, he will indubitably deserve if it be proved that he is really the amateur Haynau, the eminent disciple of the Brownrigg school of discipline, which so many credible witnesses swear him to have been.

All Europe was convulsed with indignation at the outrage inflicted by the Austrians on Madame de Maderspach. The whole English press, and very lately, justly visited with vigorous reprobation the use of the whip to some disorderly women-paupers in Marylebone Workhouse. Surely, if the evidence of the witnesses in the Patricroft "strapping" case be adhered to and confirmed, the whole power of the press and of the popular voice should be put forth to crush what we believe to have been a systematic régime of cruelty. Pauper women must not be beaten, convict women must not be beaten, wives must not be beaten, charity girls must not be beaten. Why, when the thong is banished from the workhouse, the prison, the home, and the school, should it be suffered to be flourished, and cracked, and used for torture in the cotton factory or the silk mill? We have an act specially passed for punishing assaults upon women and children. Let it be enforced in its utmost rigidity of severity against overlookers, who beat young women till they are "one mass of bruises" from the "tops of their heads to the soles of their feet."

THE SMITHFIELD PARLIAMENT.

A LITTLE cloud, no bigger than a man's hand, is gathering on the social horizon; our legislators would do well to look to it, ere it assume more formidable dimensions, ere there comes a blackness in the sky, and a torrent and a tempest.

The demeanour of the unemployed artisans who have from time to time met in Smithfield, to make public their condition and to discuss their grievances, and who in an immense multitude assembled before the Clerkenwell Police-court on Monday last, to ask the advice of Mr. Corrie, the Magistrate, in consequence of having been refused parochial assistance both in Islington and in Clerkenwell, has hitherto been most peaceable, quiet, and reasonable. No violent political element has been introduced into their deliberations; they have not smashed jewellers' windows because those tradesmen had no orders for watches to give them; they have not gutted the bakers' shops because they themselves had no bread. But starvation and destitution cannot always be borne with meekness; thousands of unemployed artisans, with breadless wives and children at their wretched homes, will not always be contented with listening to Fourierrite or Owenite, or Benthamite harangues; they will find orators at last who will make them, not Benthamite but Bedlamite speeches, and by bad words incite them to worse deeds.

Hear one Hugh Pierce who tells Mr. Corrie that he is "a joiner, of 12, Caledonian Street, Islington," that he is not in actual distress, but that he did not know how soon he might be. *He came as the representative of the unemployed, because if such things continued they would lead to a revolution in the country.*

Hugh Pierce, not being in distress himself, has, we apprehend it, no rightful place in the Parliament of Poverty; and we are afraid, and more than afraid, of a certain class of orators, "Jack Spouters" they are called in the manufacturing districts, who are maleficently addicted to coming "as the representatives of the unemployed," and of predicting the imminence, if such continued, of "a revolution in the country." We do not wish to question the purity of Mr. Pierce's motives, but we should much prefer, as a representative of the people, the next speaker, Henry Hunt, a painter and glazier, who stated simply that "he was out of work—that he had a wife and three children at home without a morsel of food—with no money to procure it—and that he had applied to the parish of Islington, and had been refused relief."

The matter is exceedingly serious; and accordingly, we suppose, will be treated in the ordinary light-hearted, *laissez-faire* manner, so much admired and practised at the Circumlocution Office. In our opinion, however, the condition of the unemployed demands the immediate and earnest attention of the Government.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—The Queen has intimated her intention not to open Parliament in person. The Speech from the Throne upon the re-assembling of Parliament will therefore be delivered by Lords Commissioners, on Tuesday, the 3rd of February. The Address, in answer to the Speech from the Throne, will be moved in the Lords by the Earl of Cork, and we believe will be seconded by Earl Cowper. Both these young noblemen have but lately succeeded, at an early age, to their family honours. The Address of the Commons will be moved by Sir John Ramsden, Bart., Member for the Borough of Taunton, and seconded by Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., Member for Wigtownshire.

THE WHOLE CAPITAL OF £100,000, for the Company formed to carry on the works of Mare and Co., was paid into their bankers' in one day. The facilities of the Limited Liability Act have thus prevented one of the largest establishments on the Thames, which has hitherto afforded employment to a great number of artisans, from being broken up.

THE EAST INDIAN COMPANY have granted a pension of £100 per annum to Mrs. Thompson, mother of the late Lieutenant H. L. Thompson, who so gallantly contributed to the defence of Kars.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY and the Court are still at Windsor, in comparative retirement. THE PRINCESS HOHENLOHE has arrived in England from the Continent. THE EVACUATION OF GREECE by the French troops is said to be decided upon. It will probably take place in the spring. SIR ROBERT PERL'S RESIGNATION is reported to have become indispensable.

EIGHT Cows were poisoned at a dairy near Glasgow in consequence of taking food from a tub which had been so long used for containing sugar of lead that the poison had completely saturated it. The tub was bought at second-hand. Three of the cows died in great agony; other three, though less violently affected, were obliged to be killed.

SOCIETY in St. Petersburg has its attention taken up with another marriage, which excites no less interest than that of the Count de Morny—namely, the union of the Duke d'Osuna with Mdlle. de Straudmann, Lady of Honour to the Empress.

M. Kossuth addressed an assemblage of about 3,000 persons, on Saturday, in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, on the present state of Continental Europe.

THE EXPEDITION to the sources of the Nile is still at the same point, in consequence of the disagreement which has arisen among the members of the commission. The Grand Council at Cairo is shortly to adopt some decision on the subject.

THE TOTAL VALUE of the produce of all the gold mines in the world was, in 1854, only £24,000,000, whereas the value of the iron produced in the same year was from £30,000,000 to £32,000,000.

IN THE CASE OF ARCHDEACON DENISON, the Court of Queen's Bench has decided that there is an appeal to Sir John Dodson, as Dean of the Arches.

GENERAL SIR HUGH ROSE, according to the correspondent of the "Times," has been studying the Austrian military system.

A COLOSSAL EQUESTRIAN STATUE of the late Lord Hardinge has just been executed for Calcutta.

RUSSIA has within the last few weeks given large orders to French engine and machine builders. The great manufactures of steam-engines, tenders, railway wagons, apparatus for making beetroot sugar, and machines for distillation, are at present actively employed.

A MONUMENT to MURILLO is to be erected in Seville, the birthplace of the great Spanish painter.

A PRUSSIAN ARTIST, named Catel, has bequeathed all his fortune, rather more than £18,000 in English money, for an asylum for distressed German artists at Rome. In addition he has left his pictures, engravings, and sketches, which are estimated to be worth £1,800, to the German Artistic Society of Rome.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY MEETING of the Islington Church Home Mission Institution was held on Friday week at the Chapel of Ease School-room, Liverpool-road.

LORD GRANVILLE has, as Ministerial Leader of the Peers, issued invitations to a numerous party of their Lordships to an official dinner on the 2nd of February, when the tenor of the Royal speech will be communicated. The Earl of Aberdeen is among the Peers invited to this banquet.

THE AMERICANS have adopted a novel plan for defending New York; an iron-built floating steam battery, shot and shell proof, 420 feet long, and of 9,000 horse-power. The battery will mount six heavy guns. It is, however, only an experiment.

A MAN was attacked by nine weasels, a few days ago, in Roxburghshire; they clung to his legs until all but one were killed.

THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE have restored Mr. Falvey, the distributor of stamps at Southampton, to his position. He was cashiered, it will be remembered, for taking what was deemed an improper interest in the return of Mr. Andrews for that town.

THE EXPENSE of Greenwich Hospital is £20,000 a year.

THE FRIENDS and PUPILS of M. PAUL DELAROCHE have resolved to make a public exhibition of his works, as at once the truest homage to his memory and a real service to art. The idea has been received with an unanimous feeling of approbation and interest.

THE REV. W. H. MILMAN, librarian of Zion College, and son of the Dean of St. Paul's, will be Archdeacon Hale's successor at St. Giles's, Cripplegate.

THE CEREMONY of drumming a soldier out of the service took place at Woolwich last week.

THE MILITIA will be out for training in the month of April. We hear good accounts of the progress of the recruiting, which argues well for the popularity of the service.

THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER is, we regret to state, suffering from a slight indisposition.

THE ARCTIC DISCOVERY SHIP RESOLUTE is almost entirely dismantled, her internal fittings having been removed and deposited in the dockyard, and her rigging taken down. In a few days she will be taken under the shears for the purpose of having her masts taken out. She is then to be placed in ordinary.

MR. DAUMOND, M.P., one of the surviving apostles of the Irvingites, has, it is rumoured, separated from that body, and sold his "apostolic" chapel at Albany to the Roman Catholics.

A FISH-BASKET, containing the dead body of an infant, with marks of violence on it, has been found in the streets at Kettleby, near London. There was, however, no evidence to show that the child had been born alive, and the jury returned an open verdict of "Found dead."

A CURIOUS ACTION FOR BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE has been brought in the Irish Court of Common Pleas. A Protestant woman, having sixteen years ago married a Roman Catholic, now insists on being married according to the rites of the Established Church.

A WHALE twenty feet long and twelve feet girth was killed on Friday week on the sands at Teesmouth. The monster has since been conveyed by rail to the neighbouring towns, and excited considerable interest. It seemed to have been left by the tide.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE COCKBURN is, it is asserted, to receive a peerage; the title to be Lord Langton.

A GOLD MEDAL has been conferred by his Majesty the King of the Belgians on Mr. Robert Bell, "in consideration of his valuable literary labours."

A PENSION of £150 a year has been bestowed on the widow of the late Captain Graves, R.N., who lost his life in the performance of his duties as harbourmaster at Malta. A grant of a sum of £200 from the Council of the Government at Malta has also been given in testimony of the public services rendered by her late husband.

THE MERCHANTS and SHIPOWNERS of NANTES have petitioned the Emperor Napoleon, praying him to obtain redress from the United States Government for the French victims of the bombardment of Greytown in July, 1854. A similar petition has been presented by the merchants of Orleans; and others are in progress at Paris, Lyons, Marseilles, and Bordeaux.

MR. LAYARD, who is now on his way home from Constantinople, has obtained authority from the Porte to construct a system of railways connecting the Danube and Constantinople with a port on the Southern coast of Turkey, towards the Archipelago. The subscription towards the scheme in Constantinople was no less than £1,000,000.

THE STEAMER PRINCESS ALICE has been placed by the Admiralty at the disposal of the Dover and Calais Royal Mail Packet Company, in the room of the Violet, lost on the Goodwin Sands.

THE IRON SCREW-STEAMER PLANET, Captain Shade, succeeded on the 16th in forcing a passage through the ice on the Elbe and reaching Hamburg; a feat performed last year by the same ship. She has no imitators. It is not, however, the masters but the owners of vessels who are deficient in daring.

LABOUR still seems to be in great demand in Canada. A correspondent, who left in October last, says it was very difficult to hire either carpenters or bricklayers, so great was the demand. The wages paid were from 8s. to 10s. sterling per day; and for very indifferent hands, to work in a garden, 4s. sterling per day, and board.

DERWENT HOUSE, Milford, near Derby, has been purchased by the Roman Catholics of Derby for monastic purposes.

LORD LYTTELTON delivered a lecture on Shakspeare last week at the Manchester Athenæum.

A NUMBER of RUSSIAN and other guns, loaded for action in the Crimea and brought home in that state, have been ordered to be discharged. These guns, amounting to about 300, and varying in calibre, are being fired at the proof butt in Woolwich Arsenal—averaging from ten to twelve dailies.

AN ADJUDICATION IN BANKRUPTCY has been obtained against John Paul, the clerk in the City of London Union, charged with embezzlement, who is described as a corn and seed merchant of Bedford and St. Mary-axe. It is stated that this is the third occasion on which Paul has been a bankrupt.

A PUMPING and FIRE ENGINE of novel construction, made by Messrs. Rennie and Son, was tried at Woolwich on Monday. It is transportable, and capable of throwing a column of water from 120 to 130 feet high at the rate of 30 tons per hour.

THE "REVUE DE PARIS," to which some eminent Republican writers, such as MM. Michelet, Jules Simon, Henri Martin, &c., are contributors, is suspended for a month. It has been prosecuted for having published, in one or two recent numbers, a novel objectionable on the score of morality.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE change in the weather, from close muggy drizzle, to cold, raw sleet, has affected another class of the London labouring poor, and the meeting of the unemployed operatives in Smithfield, on Monday last, was larger than it had been before. The behaviour of the meeting, also, was scarcely marked with that order and propriety which had hitherto distinguished it; and yet, Heaven knows, for men feeling the pangs of hunger, and having wives and little ones at home without bread, their conduct was little to be wondered at. The system of parochial relief, as administered at several of the principal metropolitan workhouses, seems to require a thorough reformation, and the magistrates appear willing and anxious to see that this reformation shall be carried out. In no country in the world is the stream of benevolence so strong-flowing as in England; in no country in the world is it so filtered away into little private rivulets and ditches, and diverted away from its proper main course. There are hundreds of honest religious people, who would prefer to export tracts and Bibles to Africa, rather than administer to the earthly welfare of these English workmen out of employment.

Curiously enough, notwithstanding the hard-grinding poverty which is driving our humbler classes to extremes, there yet seems to be an abundance of money with that portion of the population which requires, and pays for, amusement. I believe that, literally, such prosperous times for the theatres and exhibitions of the metropolis, have not been known for very many years; every night scores are turned away from the principal houses, while in some cases the return of the money is refused, and the person having paid thinks himself fortunate in obtaining the smallest glimpse of the stage over the shoulders of his neighbour. This insane desire for amusement at any price is imagined to be the re-action of parsimony and quiet living during the war time. What would result, then, if, in addition, we were to get rid of the Income-tax?

Do men or women ever live to be 170, 150, or even 120? Your contemporary, the "Athenæum," started this question the other day in a curious article on Mr. Bailey's "Records of Longevity." The reviewer was sceptical; but, whether one agrees with him or not, the facts which he presented were certainly striking. Of 4,000 cases in Mr. Bailey's books, of many thousands elsewhere recorded of persons living to such ages, no solitary one is authenticated by any evidence; and, whatever may be the motives which induce such old people to exaggerate, the "Athenæum" certainly showed, from internal evidence, that many of the most circumstantial cases must be false. The subject has since become somewhat fashionable. The "London Quarterly" is very angry with the philosophical critic for his scepticism. The "Edinburgh" shows its contempt by redoubled credulity. Still, it will not go upon the principle of accepting all such model patriarchs. It "puts aside as unproved" the case of old Jenkins, who is said to have attained the age of 169; but about Old Parr, who died, according to tradition, at 152 and some odd months, it has no doubts whatever, "accredited," says the writer, "as it is by the testimony of Harvey, who examined the body after death, and records the singular fact that the viscera were all sound, the cartilages," &c. &c. Now, in the case of Henry Jenkins, I believe it was ascertained, from some records found many years ago, that he actually made oath to his age in a court of law. Whether this old gentleman was under some hallucination or not it is impossible to say; but in the case of Old Parr, which the reviewer willingly accepts, there is no evidence whatever in favour of his great age, and much that is against it. The "testimony" of Harvey, I should imagine, if it proved anything, showed that Old Parr was not so old; but the "Edinburgh's" logic rules it otherwise. The question is interesting; but the arguments of the Quarterlies are remarkably loose and inconclusive.

The rumour relative to the rebuilding of Covent Garden Theatre has been revived, and is mentioned with tolerable certainty by those who should be well informed on such matters. What throws the greatest doubt upon it, is the extreme accuracy of detail already given: Sir Benjamin Backbite's narrative of the duel in the "School for Scandal" is loose compared to the details given of the new opera house, of which Sir Charles Barry is to be the architect, which is to have a concert room, and a splendid private entrance for royalty, and is to be of such-and-such a shape, with so many pillars &c.; further of which this deponent will say nothing until he sees the present ruins pulled down.

Mr. William Howard Russell, the celebrated "Special Correspondent" of the "Times," will shortly commence a series of lectures on Russia and the Russian War. There can be no question as to his success; literary men will flock to listen to one of their own order, who had the courage to speak unpalatable truths to incompetent heads of departments, and who, both by his conduct and his talent, has elevated their class; while the general public will be glad to look upon, and be orally instructed by, one whose written communications were looked forward to with the deepest interest throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW. THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW. THE NATIONAL REVIEW.

THE first article in the "Edinburgh" treats of Mr. Prescott's "History of the Reign of Philip II.," and Mr. Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic," the former of which is completely "guttled" of all its principal facts, and many good descriptive bits of writing, by the reviewer. Both gentlemen receive the highest praise for their works, which are stated to be evidently the production of accurate and diligent research. Mr. Prescott is more specially lauded for the strict impartiality with which he treats the memory of Philip II., the Duke of Alba, and other historical personages, whose principles and actions he execrates, after the manner of an upright and humane judge passing sentence on their lives. The structure of the book is also stated to be ingenious and well arranged. Mr. Motley is more vehement, and lashes Catholic, and admires Protestant leaders with tremendous warmth and energy. His strong and violent political convictions seem, however, to have affected the style and literary character of his history, and it is stated as a consequence, that the perusal of his work is alternately attractive and fatiguing, persuasive and irritating. When, however, we find it stated of both works that "they do honour to American literature, and they would do honour to the literature of any country in the world," we think the authors may feel well satisfied. The next article, on "Human Longevity," I have alluded to above. The most interesting paper in the whole number is on "French Society under the Directory." The story of the production of M. Ducaucel's comedy, "L'Interieur des Comités Révolutionnaires; ou, Les Aristides Modernes," which first started that movement which resulted in the extirpation of the Jacobins, is told with the greatest dramatic force. The article is based on the volumes of MM. De Goncourt and De Barante. Other articles in the "Edinburgh" are on the "Rights and Liabilities of Husband and Wife," Macaulay's new volumes, and "Scottish Lawyers and English Critics."

Under the title of "Worldliness and other Worldliness," the "Westminster Review" gives a lengthy and elaborate article on the life and writings of Edward Young, best known to the generality of readers as the author of the "Night Thoughts." Born in 1681, at his father's rectory of Upham, Young was sent at twenty-two years of age to Oxford, and a few years afterwards was nominated to a law fellowship at All-Souls. His first two poetical productions were published in the year 1713, and were entitled respectively, "An Epistle to Lord Lansdowne," and "The Last Day." In both there appears to have been a tendency to fulsome flattery of great people; the first being devoted simply to the laudation of the excellent "creation" of the person addressed, while the second, despite the intended sincerity and religious feeling of its theme, was preceded by a bombastic and ridiculous dedication to Queen Anne. In the year 1717, Young accompanied the Duke of Wharton to Ireland, in the quality of *attaché*, and from this nobleman, in 1719, he obtained an annuity of £100, which was followed, in 1721, by the gift of a bond for £600, "in compensation of expenses incurred in standing for Parliament at the Duke's desire, and as an earnest of greater services which his Grace had promised him on his refraining from the spiritual and temporal advantages of taking orders, with a certainty of two livings in the gift of his college." On the Duke of Wharton's final departure for the Continent, and disgrace at court, in 1726, and the consequent cessation of Young's reliance on his patronage,

our poet—then in his forty-seventh year—took orders, and was presently appointed chaplain to the king—George the Second. Imbued with the notion of the seriousness of his calling, he withdrew from the stage a tragedy which was already in rehearsal, and sought reputation in a manner more accordant with decorum, by turning prose writer. In 1730, Young was presented by his college with the rectory of Welsyn, in Hertfordshire; and in the following year, when he was past fifty, he married Lady Elizabeth Lee, a widow with two children, who was in great favour with Queen Caroline. In 1741, Young's wife died, leaving him one son, born in 1733; and between 1741 and 1745, appeared the "Night Thoughts," by which his fame will be tried. The tragedy which he suppressed on his first taking orders—"The Brothers"—was produced in 1753, at Drury Lane, the expressed desire of the author being, that the proceeds should be given to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; and in 1765, the poet died.

These are the main features of Young's life as compiled by the Westminster reviewer from Young's works, Johnson's "Lives of the Poets," Dr. Doran's "Life of Edward Young," Nichols and Spence's anecdotes, &c. But the reviewer's own deductions from his reading have yet to be adduced. If, then, we were disposed to pin our faith on the *dicta* of this particular critic, we should pronounce that Young was an inflated and ambitious panegyrist; writing in all cases without sincerity, in many without genius; but never without an eye to some cause to be served by his productions; that he was not only a lickspittle, but a changeling, varying his opinions with the shifting wind of fortune, and invariably acting upon the principle of the living dog being of more value than the dead lion; that the religious and moral spirit of Young's poetry was low and false; that he lacked that fine sense of what is fitting in speech and action; and that even the "Night Thoughts" are the reflex of a mind in which the highest human sympathies were inactive; that as an artist he was insincere; that he betrayed want of feeling for nature, want of sympathy; that he was by no means to be compared to Cowper, nor are the "Night Thoughts" to be mentioned in the same breath with the "Task." The sum of the reviewer's comparison is this:—"In Young we have the type of that deficient human sympathy, that impiety towards the present and the visible, which flies for its motives, its sanctities, and its religion, to the remote, the vague, and the unknown. In Cowper we have the type of that genuine love which cherishes things in proportion to their nearness, and feels its reverence grow in proportion to the intimacy of its knowledge." So far the reviewer; but for my own part, I feel as I read that the criticism is written with a systematic endeavour to show the vulnerability of the subject and the acerbity of the critic. Errors are magnified, and good qualities perseveringly slighted. That Young was a vain, ambitious man is not to be denied; that he was the servile idiot he has been depicted, is much to be doubted. The "Night Thoughts," laboured, strained, and ponderous in many parts, yet contain several isolated sentences and passages which will be "household words" when the "Task" is forgotten. The article, moreover, is written in a lax and easy spirit, which must jar disagreeably on the senses of many. I suppose none but readers of the "Westminster" are accustomed to such phrases as "rhapsodic applause of Jehovah," nor can we regard as well-chosen that sentence which speaks of Young as "having a fervid attachment to patrons in general, but on the whole preferring the Almighty."

The other two most noticeable articles in the "Westminster" are on the "Capabilities and Dissabilities of Women," and the "Mysteries of Cefalonia." The first-named is one of the most rabid on the oft-vexed question of woman's education and position; wanting in argument, inasmuch as it urges a different system of female culture from the usefulness exhibited by Miss Nightingale and her sister-labourers in the recent campaign—ladies who, in spite of all the refinements and lack of "serviceable acquirements" denounced by the writer, yet undertook and fulfilled all the duties required of them with most signal success. The article throughout is eminently strong-minded, and not a little coarse, both in thought and expression; and I doubt whether many men would like to change the quiet domestic gentlewoman who preside at their firesides for the horse-godmother so vehemently lauded by the reviewer—a woman who was "an active and diligent farmer, frequented the markets, looked after her work-people, improved her land, and, when it came to her turn, served the different parish offices of overseer, &c., at a time when those offices were no sinecure." The paper on the "Mysteries of Cefalonia," founded on a work by Mr. Andrew Lascarato, exposes the state of society in the island, the slavery of the women, and the commercial manner in which their marriages are contracted, the idleness and overbearing conduct of the priests, and the indifference of the English to all that goes on.

The "National Review" opens with a long, gossiping biographical notice of Wordsworth, founded on the life of the poet, recently published, by Mr. M. P. Hood, and a critical review of his works. There is also a good article on Mr. Spurgeon and his popularity, the writer of which treats his subject with more fairness and less acrimony than has been generally displayed. That Mr. Spurgeon is sincere, to prove which appears to be the chief aim of the article, has never been very strongly doubted; but the reviewer not only bargains for his sincerity, but occasionally attempts to defend his style, his off-hand familiarity, and use of commonplace similes and phrases in the most sacred matters—arguing that, though the expressions are ill-timed and occasionally irreverent, the thoughts which dictate them are pure. Other articles in the "National" are on the "Ethnology of the Germans," the "Relation of Art to Religion," &c., &c.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

GOSSIP.

A PIECE called "The Black Book," adapted by Mr. Palgrave Simpson from "Les Mémoires du Diable" is in rehearsal at Drury Lane. Mr. Mathews will sustain the principal character.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams return to the Adelphi on Monday, and will play in the first piece—"The Night at Notting Hill" and the Pantomime concluding the entertainment.

The third theatrical performance took place on Wednesday, at Windsor Castle, "Secret Service" and "Hush Money" being the dramas represented.

Mr. Leigh Murray is engaged at the Lyceum. So great, however, is the success of the burlesque, that it seems doubtful whether any change will be made in the bill. At Easter, Mr. Tully and his operatic company return.

"Richard the Second" will be the next Shakesperian revival at the Princess's.

ENTRY OF A EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR INTO TEHERAN.

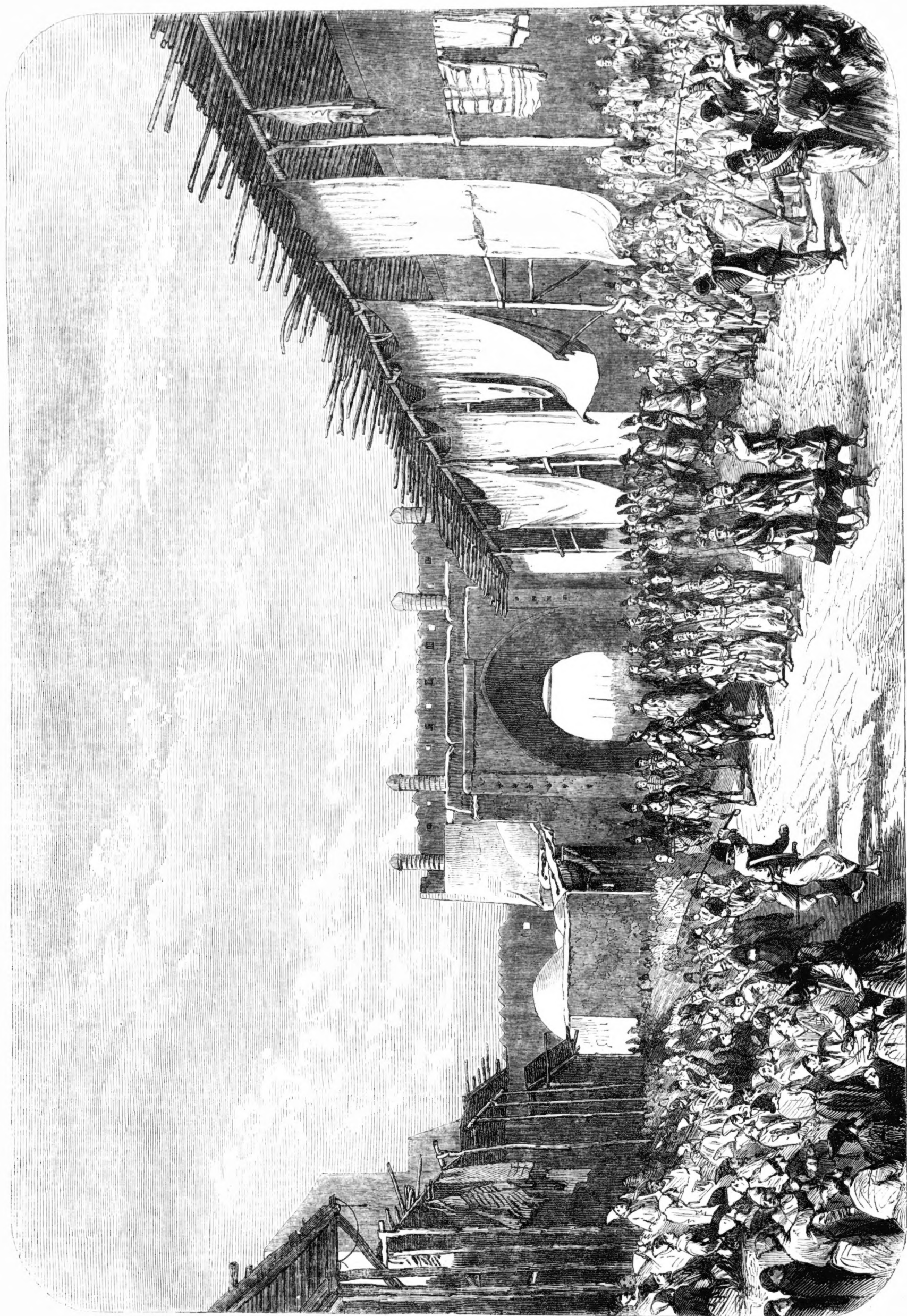
WHILE the recent arrival of the Persian Ambassador to the Court of France, is exciting considerable attention on both sides of the channel, the engraving on the next page, representing the entry of the French Envoy into Teheran, some few months since, will be regarded with a certain amount of interest, especially as the event created much excitement in the Persian capital.

When within some fifty miles of Shiraz, the Envoy was met by the Mihanmandar, sent by the Shah with horses and tents to escort him to Teheran. On the way the Envoy was frequently met by deputations from various towns; and at Shiraz the governor's brother came out to meet him, followed by a numerous escort of Infantry and Cavalry. At Isfahan the same honours were paid.

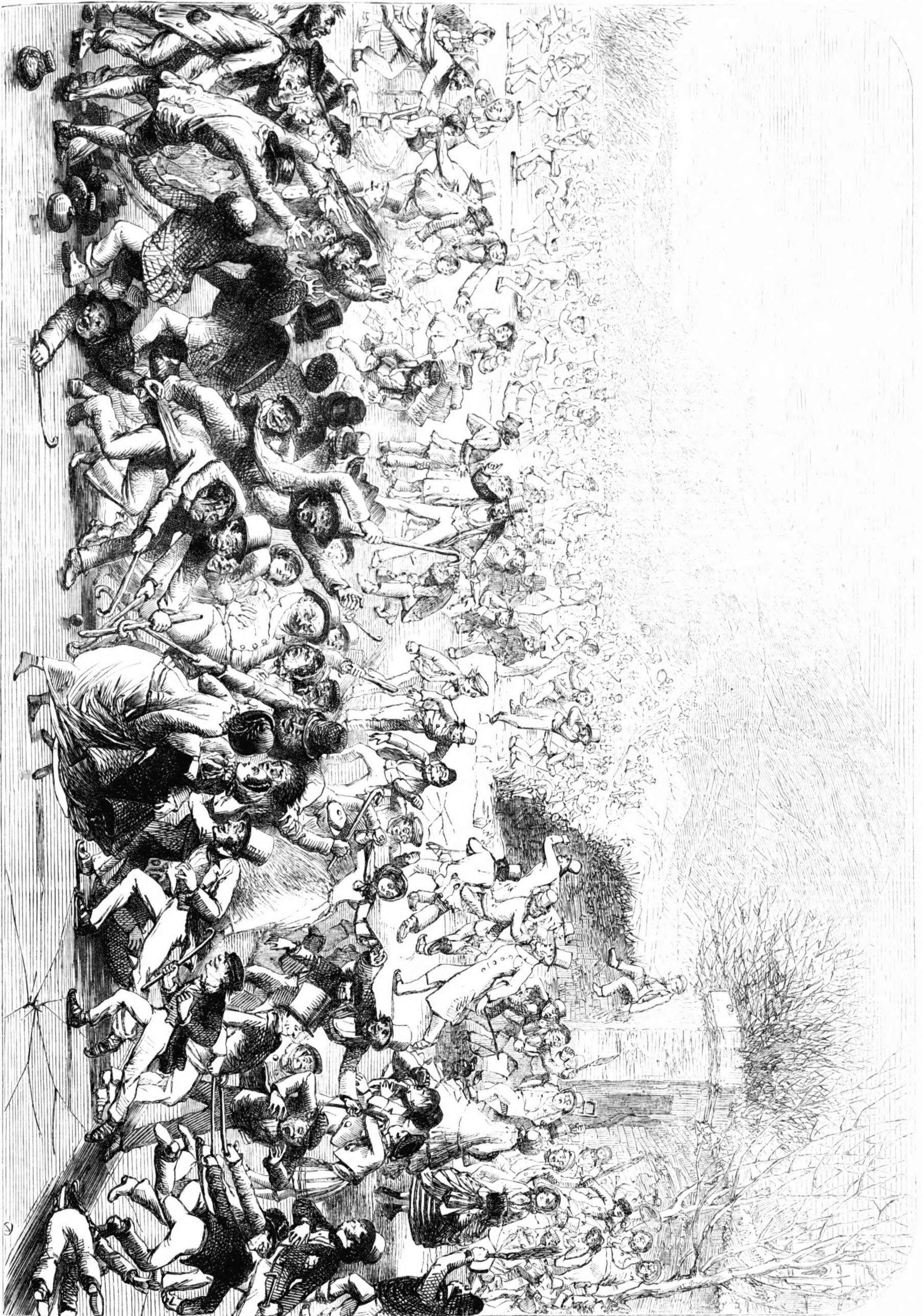
The Envoy was fourteen days travelling the distance between Isfahan and Teheran, during the whole of which time he and his escort suffered greatly from the excessive heat. They arrived at Teheran on the 2nd of July; but as the preparations for their reception were not complete, they pitched their tents at some little distance from the town, and awaited the arrival of the authorities who were to come out to meet them.

On the following day, the Shah sent his ministers to welcome the French Envoy to the city of Teheran. Horses, richly caparisoned, were provided; and the principal members of the embassy, escorted by the authorities and high government functionaries, entered the city through the principal gate.

For more than an hour, the procession traversed the streets and bazaars, densely thronged by the people who had turned out to witness the spectacle. Next day the Envoy was admitted to the presence of the Shah.



ENTRY OF AN EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR INTO TEHERAN, THE CAPITAL OF PERSIA.—FROM A SKETCH BY M. FARINI.



SCENE AT DUDDINGSTONE LOCH, EDINBURGH, DURING THE LATE FROST.—(FROM A DRAWING BY C. POTTER.)

SCENE AT DUDDINGSTONE LOCH.

OUR engraving on the previous page will, unless we are greatly mistaken, highly interest readers on one side of the Tweed, and amuse those on the other. Our artist has, with that power which characterises him, depicted the scene to be witnessed at Duddingstone Loch, when the winter comes round, and the frost is keen, and the ice is strong enough to bear the weight of half the inhabitants of the Scottish metropolis.

Duddingstone Loch, as many of our readers are doubtless aware, is a fine sheet of water, lying at the south base of Arthur's Seat, encompassed by the grounds of the Marquis of Abercorn, and covering a surface of twenty-five acres. When the cold season arrives, and the weather is favourable for such sports, the place is much frequented by those citizens of Edinburgh who pursue the favourite amusements of curling and skating. When such is the case, and there are ladies present to lend variety to the scene, the aspect of Duddingstone Loch is gay, lively, animated, and interesting. Who, indeed, could look at our engraving without wishing himself at Duddingstone on such an occasion?

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE PRINCE DE LIGNE.

On Monday, the 19th, a numerous deputation of the English residents at Brussels, naval, military, and civilian, waited upon the Prince de Ligne, at his hôtel in the Rue Royale, to declare their reprobation of the personal vulgarities uttered by Sir Robert Peel against the Prince in his speech at Birmingham. The obnoxious passage, it will be remembered, ran thus:—"Then came the Ambassador of the smallest kingdom in Europe, Belgium, the Prince de Ligne, the very picture of swelling insignificance, so swelling, indeed, that he could not for the life of him look down from the contemplation of his own importance."

The Prince de Ligne, in warm terms, acknowledged the compliments paid him by the deputation, and observed,—"Gentlemen, believe me that I am most grateful for this your spontaneous act of courtesy and good-will; and I am deeply sensible of the generous kindness that has prompted you thus to repel the vulgar aggression unwarrantably made upon me by Sir Robert Peel. I can assure you to be persuaded that I do not suffer the displeasure I may experience at this low-bred indignity to affect, for one instant, the high respect and sincere regard long and cordially entertained by me for England and the English. The coarse verbiage adopted by Sir Robert Peel to revile me belongs only to a sot (ivrogne) and a blackguard (gamin), and as such I regard it with proper contempt; but, without seeking that personage, should chance ever place me in unpalatable contact with him, I shall not hesitate to say that his conduct towards me has been that of an under-bred puppy (mal élevé et vaillant). And now, gentlemen, on my part, I have to express my sorrow and extreme displeasure at any countrymen of mine, and without my authority, should have used this untoward circumstance for a reason to offer you the civility of refusing your admission to the Bal Noble. Such conduct on their part appertains to that category of social offences which we have had occasion to deplore. I have been greatly pained at such ill-bred and unworthy conduct. Allow me, gentlemen, to say, that out of this unpleasant occurrence I have, at any rate, derived the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance, and of being able, in returning you my hearty thanks for your considerate attention, publicly to testify my constant and ardent regard for your country, its inhabitants, and its institutions."

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The intelligence from the Cape frontier is pacific. The Caffre chiefs had begun to express their impatience at the non-fulfilment of the prophet's prediction, and sowing and ploughing were becoming general. The rivers in the upper districts were in such a swollen state from the heavy rains as to prevent nearly all communication by post.

INSUBORDINATION IN CORFU.—Some soldiers of the artillery in garrison in the Isle of Vido, in which is the powder magazine, having been ill-treated by a non-commissioned officer, resolved to avenge themselves by blowing up the magazine, which contained 5,000 barrels of gunpowder. They placed a quantity of straw before the door, but some soldiers of the 3rd regiment, learning what they were about, drove them away.

AN AMERICAN MURDER.—A Missouri paper gives the particulars of a most cold-blooded and determined murder. Burns, the proprietor of an hotel, had quarrelled with a Dr. Stovall, and blows were exchanged. Soon afterwards Stovall was driving past Burns's stable, and seeing him engaged harnessing a horse, pulled up and walked towards Burns. He beckoned to a negro who was standing near to get out of the way, at the same moment raising a gun and firing. At the instant of his firing Burns looked round, and received the contents of the gun full in his face. He raised his hands to his eyes, and sank to the earth. Upon this Stovall advanced within ten paces, and fired the second time, the whole charge taking effect in his back; and Burns then cried out, "I am a dead man!" Still not satisfied, Stovall coolly approached his victim, and drawing a pistol, put it close to his head and fired again, bursting his eyeball from its socket; then putting the pistol to his breast, he fired a fourth time into the body of the already dead man. Mrs. Burns and her children rushed from the house screaming, while Stovall coolly walked away, got into his buggy, and drove off.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM MURDER.—A workman and his wife, of Buvin, near Valenciennes, the former sixty, and the latter only thirty-five years of age, lived for some time on bad terms. A few mornings since the woman called her husband at an early hour, and told him that it was time to get up to go to his work; at the same time saying that she had prepared him a good cup of coffee. He was much surprised at this attention, as he was not accustomed to anything of the kind. He took part of the coffee, but found it so bitter that he threw the rest away. He then began dressing himself. As he was stooping down, he heard a noise at his side, and on looking round perceived that his wife had a pistol in her hand, and that she was about to discharge it at him. He snatched it from her, and threw it away. The woman then seized a garden fork, and struck him on the head with it several times with great violence. The man rushed from the house, and sought refuge at his brother's residence, which was near. He is very much injured.

STRANGE SUICIDE.—A Hungarian lawyer, with his wife and child, recently arrived at Pesth. The beauty of the lady was so remarkable as to attract attention when she visited the theatre, &c. One evening the entire family, dressed as if for a fête, went to the banks of the Danube, and tied together by a cord, the child in the middle, leaped into the river in the midst of the pieces of ice which were drifting by. A piercing shriek escaped the mother, and with assistance the parents were dragged out, but the child had sunk. The father was dead; and the mother, on regaining the shore, was found to be mad.

THE NEUCHÂTEL PRISONERS.—The annexed letter from one of the Neuchâtel prisoners, after their liberation, will be read with interest. It is dated from Pontalier, Jan. 19:—"Here we are at present at liberty, but under a sentence of banishment, which is a new way of annulling entirely a process which has never yet been brought before a criminal court. We have suffered a great deal. We were not allowed to speak to each other, and most of us have been confined in cells not more than eight feet square. Fortunately, our private telegraphs were so good, that we knew before the inhabitants of the town all the news, both home and foreign. My first forty-eight hours were not pleasant; bread and water to eat, and momentary expectation of being called out to be shot or hung. I had not had time to take anything for forty-eight hours before I was taken. I had been twenty-six hours on horseback. During our affray I got a wound in my left eye, which for some time I thought was destroyed. It is now better, and my sight will be saved. The English papers are too hard upon us, and the Swiss give nothing but false intelligence, to suit their own purposes. If I had done half as much for a so-called popular movement, I should have received some praise. We have not yet done, and, certes, I will not flinch from the cause I have served for a moment. All the men who were under my command—that is, all the mountaineers—are more enthusiastic than ever. As yet we are not allowed to leave Pontalier. We are kept until the wishes of the Emperor Napoleon are known. The French authorities are very kind. We are at this moment not troubled with visitors. I hear Lord Palmerston talks of unknown countries not on maps. How large is Heligoland and Gibraltar? Would the English like to lose them? And yet on most large maps Gibraltar is designated as a Spanish town. I am happy to say the chances of war permitted me to be the first to plant the standard of the King in the principality, having closed that part of the country, and declared war at nine o'clock on the evening before we were defeated.—Yours ever."

THE CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.—A little child two years old was poisoned last week through sucking some lucifer matches with which she had been playing; she had bitten off the brimstone ends of five of the matches, and died the following day.—A bricklayer employed on the roof of a house in Steyne, was suddenly seized with giddiness, on Friday (23rd), and fell a distance of 100 feet; he had been drinking rather freely at dinner, and soon expired.—A driver on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway was last week thrown off his engine and killed, by the bursting of the boiler; the guard was also severely injured that he died.—Bridget Egan, four years old, daughter of a labourer living at Liverpool, while playing with other children on Saturday night week, was so severely burnt that death ensued the following day.—Ann Ballard, eighteen months old, whose parents also reside in Liverpool, was scalded on Saturday morning week, by her mother accidentally upsetting the coffee-pot, and died on Monday.—A female, residing at Craighead, N.B., was pouring out some naphtha when the bottle broke; her dress ignited, and she was fatally burnt.—Mrs Cross, of Lord Street, Birkenhead, was walking along Bridge Street, opposite to Portland Place, last week, when a flagstone on which she trod gave way, and she fell into an old well, a distance of twelve feet. Mrs Cross received severe injuries, and has been since confined to her bed.—The dress of a young woman was caught in the machinery at the works of Mr. Gratix, at Salford. She was instantly killed.

THE PERFORMANCE of Schiller's drama of "William Tell" has been prohibited, for the present, at the Theatre Royal at Munich.

MR. ROEBUCK ON FINANCIAL REFORM.

A GREAT meeting of the Liverpool Financial Reform Association was held last week. The chair was occupied by Mr. L. Heyworth, M.P., and the great speaker of the evening was Mr. Roebuck, M.P. That gentleman began by a reference to our disasters in the Crimea, which, he said, were caused by the aristocratic government of the country. From this subject he passed easily to the subject of taxation, and of the income-tax in particular. He said there was now a strong feeling growing up against the injustice of the income-tax. He acknowledged that injustice. His idea was, that a man who had a hundred or a thousand a-year from funded or landed property was far more able to pay a tax of five or ten per cent. than the man who made a hundred or a thousand a year by his brains or his labour. In the House of Commons he had said so, and recollected Mr. Gladstone telling him that his argument was not to be answered, but that he (Mr. Gladstone) must have the money. What he (Mr. Roebuck) proposed to do was to capitalise this thousand a year, and tax it then as funded property. Or you might say to professional men, "We will allow you to insure your life; you shall lay by so much every year for the purposes of insurance, and we will tax you for the remainder." This would be something like equality between the man of funded and landed property and the man who earns his income by the exercise of his brains and labour. But that was a sort of process not agreeable to those who govern the House of Commons. He (Mr. Roebuck) did not, however, oppose the tax, as an income-tax, but the unjust manner in which it was levied. "And for what," said the Learned Gentleman, "are our taxes levied? They are ostensibly levied for the purpose of protecting the people of this country in their persons, their property, and their reputations. But, sir, any one who shall look at the institutions of this country, and see how much of those institutions goes to the great end of which I speak, must know how much the people are robbed. We have persons for parade—we have persons for service; and the last bear a very small proportion to the first. Now, what I want to do is to make our House of Commons fit and willing to perform its duty; and therefore I say, that you cannot expect to have any real financial reform until you have had parliamentary reform." Mr. Roebuck then gave, amidst some laughter, a description of the unhappy position of "independent members," who sometimes were brought over to vote with the ministers because otherwise their wives would not be invited to a Royal ball, and at others won by the excessive civility of the ministers themselves. With a few remarks on army reform, Mr. Roebuck concluded his address, which was received with much applause.

OPPOSITION TO THE INCOME-TAX.

A DEPUTATION, headed by Major Reed, had an interview on Friday week with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at his official residence, with a view to urging a reduction of the Income-tax. In reply to the remarks of various speakers, Sir G. C. Lewis said:—"The Income-tax in its present form might continue until a year after the 5th of April next, but Government would not take any undue advantage of that. But he must add with regard to the rate of the Income-tax that it was a case not of taxation, but of expenditure. The question to be considered was, what would be the expenditure of the following year? With regard to the interest of debt, there could be, no doubt, some increase on account of the loans contracted during the war. Two millions of Exchequer Bonds would fall due next year, and the civil list and civil expenses would be about the same as last year. Upon the expenditure the ways and means of the country must depend. The amount realised by the Income-tax was very large, and the suggestion now made, unless some other tax were proposed—which he presumed the deputation did not contemplate—would reduce it by eight millions. That was, he was afraid, all he could say, and he had stated his views as fully and with as much candour as the circumstances in which he was placed would permit." He also said that he had no desire to continue the malt tax.

Another deputation waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, for the purpose of pressing upon his attention the necessity of a removal of the income-tax upon incomes of £150 and under. The deputation consisted of Dr. Chalmers, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Underwood, and other gentlemen, who are members of an association under whose auspices a meeting was held a few evenings since at the London Tavern. Their object was to ask the Chancellor to consider whether it would not be possible to relieve persons entirely who had incomes under £150 a year, and in all cases to abandon the tax upon the first £150 of income. A long conversation ensued, and it gradually went off into a consideration of taxation generally. The speakers, after discussing with the Chancellor the subject of poor rates and various other matters, thanked him for receiving the deputation, and left without receiving any reply on the specific question on which they had waited him for consultation.

The Property and Income-tax Association held a meeting in Exeter Hall last week; Mr. Alderman Wire in the chair. It was intended to be a field-day manifestation of public opinion against the Income-tax; and delegates from about a dozen provincial towns were arrayed on the platform beside the London originators of the movement. Among those who spoke were three Members of Parliament—Major Reed, Mr. Thomas Chambers, and Mr. Ansley Pellatt. The country delegates were represented by Mr. Joseph Shaw of Huddersfield, Mr. T. Atwood of Birmingham, the Mayor of Oxford, Mr. Partridge of Birmingham, and Mr. Gowing of Ipswich. In the resolutions adopted, the meeting did not go beyond the usual demands, remission of the war nineties, and an equitable adjustment of the tax on permanent and precarious incomes. But two of the speakers looked beyond. Mr. Wire wants "revision of our whole system of taxation, so as to subject the rich to at least an equal pressure with the poor." And Mr. Pellatt desires to remove the iniquitous distinction, so favourable to farmers, so damaging to traders, of permitting the former to pay on a presumed profit in proportion to rental, and exacting from the latter a tax on income and property.

At Dublin, Haverfordwest, Rhyi, Arundel, Torquay, Stroud, &c., &c., influential meetings have been held to agitate for the reduction of the tax.

INVESTITURE OF THE ORDER OF THE BATH.—The Queen held an investiture of the Order of the Bath on Saturday, when the Earl of St. Germain was invested with the insignia of a (civil) Knight Grand Cross of the Bath. The following gentlemen were also knighted by her Majesty, and were made Knights Commanders of the Order:—Rear-Admiral C. Elliot (Civil), Hon. J. D. Bigh (Civil), J. F. Crampton, Esq. (Civil), Lieut.-Gen. S. B. Auchmuty, Lieut.-Gen. N. Thorne, Rear-Admiral C. H. Fremantle, Rear-Admiral the Hon. F. W. Grey, Colonel H. K. Stokes, Lieut.-Gen. G. P. Wymer, Major-Gen. R. J. Hussey Vivian, John George Shaw-Lefevre, Esq. (Civil). The following gentlemen were at the same time created Companions of the Bath:—Captain F. H. Glasse, R.N., Captain Francis Scott, R.N.; Colonels C. W. Ridley, C. T. Van Straubenzee, F. W. Hamilton, Lord F. Paulet, Hon. G. Cadogan, F. Seymour, W. M. Scott-Murdo, E. R. Wetherall; Lieutenants-Colonels J. P. Sparks, T. Williams, A. B. Montgomery, J. H. Franklin, R. J. Baumgartner, R. Glane, J. L. Wilton, F. C. Eveleigh, A. T. Heyland, R. C. H. Taylor, J. E. Godwyn, F. P. Harding, A. Irving, A. C. Goodenough, J. N. A. Freese, Hon. A. E. Hardinge, E. A. Somerast, A. J. Reynell-Pack, J. C. Kennedy, J. W. Armsrong, J. W. Sidney Smith, J. L. B. Rooke, G. G. Alexander, J. Daubeney, W. Friend Hopkins, H. E. M. Campbell; Majors J. R. Anderson, C. T. Franklin, J. M. Wemyss, W. A. B. Keilly, G. S. Digby, Dr. J. B. Gibson, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, R. C. Elliot, Senior Surgeon, Royal Artillery, Commissary W. L. M. Young, W. G. Romaine, Esq., Deputy Judge-Advocate (Civil), Captain C. Fitzgerald, R.N., (Civil), H. W. Gordon, Esq. (Civil).

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—One of those old buildings which still remain in the East End of London was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday night. The house was situate in the Minories, near Aldgate church. Several families were living in it, and it was only with great difficulty that they were saved. A man named Silas, indeed, only escaped by leaping from a third-floor window on to a slated roof below: he was very much injured.—On Sunday morning an explosion of gas took place in the house of a furniture broker in Gravel Lane. The family, it appeared, had retired to rest; but luckily, although the furniture in the shop was set on fire and blown into the street, no one received any material injury. So strong was the explosion, that the next house was, like the first named, nearly riddled, and the windows were demolished.—A fire broke out, early on Saturday morning, on the premises formerly occupied by the Star Steam-packet Company, near the Town Pier, Gravesend, and in spite of the exertions of the firemen, the flames rapidly reached the adjoining houses. Three houses in High Street, and four in East Street, with their contents, were consumed. On the lower side of East Street, the old Amsterdam tavern, the King of Prussia public-house, two shops, the Old Falcon hotel, and the Three Dials tavern, were greatly damaged. The last-mentioned was on fire, and the front in East Street was burnt down, and the house itself gutted.—The premises of Messrs. Boils, Matthews, & Co. South, wholesale perfumers, of Watling Street, were wholly consumed on Monday. A great number of the contiguous houses were damaged.

SUICIDES.—Mr. Walter Liddard, aged fifty-two, a naval surgeon, who has lately been much excited about religion, committed suicide a few days ago, by suspending himself to the bed-post.—Mr. Thomas Vickers, of the Grapes Tavern, Aldersgate Street, recently committed suicide by cutting his throat.—A gentleman of fortune, Mr. Luke Lightfoot, drowned himself in the Surrey Canal on Friday week. The mind of this unfortunate gentleman was known to have been impaired for a long time.—A solicitor, Mr. Mark Barnard, died last week of a self-inflicted wound in his throat.

THE PRINCESS DE LIEVEN died on Monday night, of inflammation of the chest.

OBITUARY.

ALDERSON, BARON.—At his residence, Park Crescent, on the afternoon of the 27th inst., died Sir Edward Hall Alderson, Baron of the Exchequer, and eldest son of the late Mr. Alderson, Recorder of Norwich. He was born in the year 1787, and having received his early education at the Charterhouse, he proceeded to Caius College, Cambridge, where he closed a brilliant career as an undergraduate by taking his degree in January, 1809, as Senior Wrangler and Smith's prizeman, and Senior Chancellor's Medalist. In 1810 Alderson was elected a Fellow of his college, and in 1812 he proceeded to take his degree as Master of Arts. He had been already called to the bar of the Inner Temple in the preceding year, and for several years went the Northern Circuit. He never held a seat in Parliament, but perhaps on that very account had leisure to earn even a higher reputation as a legal junior, and to secure a very extensive practice as a Chamber counsel. While still wearing a stuff gown, he was promoted, in 1830, to the Court of Common Pleas as an additional puisne judge, and on that occasion he received the honour of knighthood. He was transferred from that court, however, in 1834 to a puisne judgeship in the Court of Exchequer. Baron Alderson bore the character of a careful, learned, and conscientious judge, though his mind was naturally inclined to take a rather hard and dry view of the question at issue, and to strip it, almost to fault, of extraneous matter. His intercourse with the members of the bar was uniformly courteous and friendly, and his good humour and perhaps over frequent jocoseness made him generally popular. In 1823 he married the youngest daughter of the Rev. Edward Drewe, of Broadhembury, in the county of Devon, by whom he had a large family.

FITZWILLIAM, MR.—At Brompton, on the 19th inst., died Mr. Edward Francis Fitzwilliam, the celebrated composer, in his 33rd year. He was born at Deal in 1824, educated at the Pimlico Grammar School, afterwards at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall, Hertford, and finally at the institution of L'Abbe Haefrenque, Boulogne-sur-Mer. He was taught the pianoforte when young, and chiefly by his mother, who frequently, in "The Wreck Ashore" days of the Adelphi, after acting in three pieces nightly, would be found at six o'clock on the following morning with her then somewhat unwilling pupil at the instrument, previously to his going to school for the day. On his coming of age he had composed a "Sabbath Mater." His mother, on this occasion, presented him with £100 to defray the expenses of having his work performed at the Hanover Square Rooms. In October, 1847, he was appointed musical director of the Lyceum, then under the management of Madame Vestris. At this time he wrote a cantata entitled "O Incomprehensible Creator." This cantata was shortly afterwards published with a "Te Deum." At Easter, 1853, he was appointed musical director of the Haymarket Theatre. On the 31st of December, 1853, he married the talented actress, Miss Ellen Chaplin, whom he has left with an infant son to lament his loss.

MEDHURST, REV. DR.—On the 24th inst., at Pimlico, died the Rev. Dr. W. H. Medhurst, the distinguished missionary. He was first appointed to China in 1816, and had consequently spent forty years in that important portion of the missionary field. After residing at Malacca and Penang for several years, he settled at Batavia; where he formed a church on a basis as catholic as the constitution of the society which sent him out, and including every variety of protestant profession that the colony presented. When, in later years, he entered China Proper, it was with the determination to merge national and denominational predilection. In 1835, he was called upon to undertake a journey along the south-east coast of China, with a view to ascertain how far the country might be open to the reception of the Gospel. In the summer of 1838, Dr. Medhurst returned to the scene of his labours. Once more he visited his native shores, to acquaint us with the wonderful story of the eventful interval, when it pleased God thus suddenly to terminate so valuable a life. He arrived in London on the 22nd inst., in a state of extreme exhaustion; and he was obliged immediately to betake himself to bed, from which he never rose. He became insensible on the morning of the 24th, and continued in that state until the hour of his death; but he appeared to be quite free from suffering, and his last moments were perfectly tranquil. He was sixty-one years of age.

THE WALWORTH MURDER.

A FURTHER examination in this case was made on Wednesday. A Mrs. Anne Hyde deposed that she washed some shirts for Bacon a week or so after the murder, and on one of the wrists and skirt of one of them found marks of blood. She remarked that he was very nervous, and heard him say that if his wife said anything about him he would kill her; and if she got home to him again, he would take her abroad.

Mr. Richard Troughton, a coffee-house keeper in the City Road, deposed that the prisoner Bacon came to his house on Sunday, the 4th, and took a lodging for the night. He desired to be called at six, as he was going by the King's Cross Railway. He accordingly started, but came back at about half-past seven, saying he was too late for the train. About an hour and a half afterwards he went away altogether.

Mrs. Matilda Lawrence, of George Street, Camberwell, proved that the watch which Bacon declared to have been stolen from him at the time of the murder, was found by her little child on a doorstep in George Street, on the 5th instant. Dr. Bushell said he had examined a pair of trousers and a waistcoat submitted to him by Inspector Young, and had found blood on them. He thought the blood found on Mrs. Bacon's dress did not come from her throat, but had been spilt against it. That blood would not have come from the child lying on the ground. It might have come from the elder child (the boy), if the person had been standing in the front, or at the side of him. The wound in the throat of Mrs. Bacon was not very deep; she might have lost three or four ounces of blood, and the loss of that quantity might make a person insensible for a long time.

Mrs. Rebecca Langridge, the matron of Horsemen Lane Jail, confirmed the statement which will be found in another part of this paper, that when taken to that prison, Mrs. Bacon's neck bore the mark of a thick cord.

This was all the material evidence. The prisoners were remanded.

THE GREAT FORGERIES.—Saward and Anderson were again examined on Wednesday. Several witnesses deposed to Anderson having hired their apartments for short periods, and under assumed names; while two or three "young men" proved that he had sent them from these apartments and from public houses to cash cheques. The prisoners were again remanded.

WONDERFUL, IF TRUE.—A Paris journal, called "Les Contemporains," has just published a strange account, signed "Henri Page," of an aerostatic excursion, which the writer declares has solved the long-contested problem of balloon navigation. The persons who are stated to have made the excursion are the Count de Pleuvier, M. Gavarni, (the celebrated French artist and presumed inventor of the machine), M. Migeon, Mr. Falconer, an English aeronaut, and M. Henri Page, the writer. The apparatus used is stated to have cost not less than 800,000fr., the greater portion of which was furnished by Count de Pleuvier. The machine is represented as consisting of two united balloons together, of a spherical form, able to contain each 100 cubes of pure hydrogen gas. The directing power is a modified screw, communicating with the car, and a rudder, made principally of whalebone, to change the direction when required. M. Gavarni, the inventor, it is declared, can obtain the upward movement of the machine without throwing out ballast, which system soon exhausts the resources of the very best constructed balloon, and becomes an invincible obstacle to long excursions in the air. The loss of hydrogen is instantaneously repaired by a chemical proceeding, of which M. Migeon is stated to possess the secret, and by a little apparatus of communication, also invented by M. Gavarni. The descent is effected, as hitherto, by letting the gas escape. The departure of the aeronauts on the occasion referred to, took place on the 15th of January, at ten in the morning, from the park of Ferrières, in the Sologne; and the next morning, at five, the aerial travellers effected a safe descent within half a mile of Algiers. "We received," says the account, "the most touching hospitality. The inhabitants wanted to carry us in triumph, but we declined the honour; and as soon as we could, went to take some repose, leaving our aerostatic apparatus under the guardianship of a file of Zouaves. Marshal Randon deigned to congratulate us, and pressed the hand of M. Gavarni with the utmost warmth. We remained on the African soil only thirty hours, and left at noon the day after our arrival, in sight of an immense multitude who had assembled to see us ascend from the Mole. Our return was effected without the slightest incident, but with much greater rapidity. At half-past four the next morning, we alighted at the spot from which we started, in the park of Count de Pleuvier."

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—Earl Granville has consented to preside at the forthcoming anniversary festival of this charity, and the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs of London have expressed their intention of supporting his Lordship. The dinner is to take place at the London Tavern on the 18th of March; and under such auspicious circumstances it is hoped the occasion may result most successfully for a charity so well deserving of public support.

THE WEST END BETTING-HOUSES.—In consequence of the breaking in of the police into the "office" of a Mr. Thorpe lately, and the taking into custody of his clerks, as well as all persons—even those who "merely looked in from curiosity"—who were in the place at the time, together with the seizure of the ledgers, the proprietors of similar establishments have taken the alarm, and not a single office was open next day. The police have received instructions to act vigorously in the matter.

NEW EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM.—The Committee of the Privy Council on Education have arranged that an "Educational Museum" shall be opened "in the spring" at the "New Buildings, South Kensington." The books and objects exhibited will be grouped under the following divisions:—1. School buildings and fittings, forms, desks, slates, plans, models, &c. 2. General education, including reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, mathematics, foreign languages, histories. 3. Drawing and the Fine Arts. 4. Music. 5. Household economy. 6. Geography and Astronomy. 7. Natural history. 8. Chemistry. 9. Physics. 10. Mechanics. 11. Apparatus for teaching the blind and the deaf and dumb.

Literature.

Alfieri and Goldoni: their Lives and Writings. By EDWARD COPPING. London: Adley and Co.

DRAMATISTS seem fated to suffer in their own persons the same sorrows and misfortunes, the same strange vicissitudes and trials, that influence the beings created by their imagination. Whether it is that the man who has felt and suffered much makes the dramatist, or whether dramatic writing draws its unfortunate votary into the vortex of active and suffering life, we will not stop to inquire; but it is an indisputable fact that the biographies of these men have been peculiarly eventful and romantic. A dozen names arise at once to corroborate this, but we need only enumerate those of Molière, Lope de Vega, Farquhar, and Otway as examples. The heroes of Mr. Copping's pleasant volume are not exceptional; indeed, it would be difficult to find in the whole range of biography two lives more chequered or extraordinary. With the career of Alfieri the mass of English readers are somewhat familiar. Macaulay has gossiped about "the haughty, ardent, and voluptuous nobleman, the horse-jockey, the libertine who fought Lord Egmont in Hyde Park, and robbed the Pretender of his queen." Byron wrote a panegyric upon him. The appearance of a gifted Italian woman upon a London stage last season caused the public attention to be again directed to the author of some of our most remarkable impersonations; and this is the second biography of Alfieri we have noticed in these columns. Alfieri was a man of extremes: he could do nothing by halves. Every action of his life denoted strength and power, though unhappily the force of his nature was often exerted in a wrong direction. Passionate and hasty as his spirit was, we find him faithful and kind to the noble woman who was the friend and companion of his later days. At one time he is recklessly extravagant, buying horses unnumbered and indulging in every luxury; a moment afterwards, and we find him in Rome, almost denying himself and his servant the necessaries of life. Sometimes we see him wasting months and years in unprofitable idleness; then he will suddenly change, and work with furious impetuosity to make up for his shortcomings, with one arm left free and the other tied to his chair to prevent him leaving the house. Mr. Copping has pointed out the external features of the great dramatist with praiseworthy fidelity, but he has failed in reconciling the strange contradictions of his character. Perhaps this is an impossible task, and we are considerably indebted to the author for what he has done towards it. Alfieri's escape from France with the Duchess of Albany is an incident familiar to most readers. Mr. Copping has described it very forcibly. The revolution of 1791 was gathering that strength which shortly after told with such terrific effect upon the aristocracy. Alfieri, being a courtier, thinks it unwise to remain any longer in Paris, and succeeds in obtaining a passport to Italy.

As they were fully out of the city, an obstacle occurred which threatened for a time to stop their further progress. Arrived at the Barrière Blanche, their papers were examined, and were found satisfactory. The gate was just on the point of being opened to them, when a wild, disorderly troop of revellers from a neighbouring cabaret came out, attracted by the well-laden carriage which contained the travellers and their effects. This mob commenced at once uttering loud cries against the inmates of the vehicle. They complained of being left in misery and wretchedness, while the rich were allowed to quit Paris, and carry away with them all their wealth. The guards of the barrier expostulated, but all to no purpose; the people insisted upon the carriage being driven back into the city, inflamed with an anger that overstepped all the limits of prudence, Alfieri leaped from his seat and darted into the midst of the excited crowd.

"Look!" said he, thrusting his passport daintily in their faces—"look! Listen! Alfieri is my name; I am an Italian, not a Frenchman; tall, thin, pale, and with red hair. I am the person so described: look at me. I have a passport; it is according to rule; we received it from those who are authorised to give it. We are determined to pass, and we will pass, per diol!"

The mob had grown in size since the commencement of the dispute. It had uttered insulting expressions—desperate threats; some of its members had proposed to lead Alfieri and his companion to the Hôtel de Ville; others had suggested stoning them to death. At the sound of Alfieri's words, at the sight of his determined attitude, their courage gave way. The guards took this opportunity to renew their pacific discourse. In a few minutes Alfieri was allowed to ascend to his seat again, and the carriage drove through the barrier, pursued by nothing more dangerous than the hissing, hooting, and curses of the baited crowd.

Alfieri's life was a melancholy business from beginning to end. Even his childhood was marked by acute suffering, and to the day of his death, which occurred in 1803, his moments of happiness seem to have been very few. Not so with Carlo Goldoni, who was as perfect an embodiment of the comic, as Alfieri was of the tragic muse. Nothing could depress him. If he grew tired of theatrical pursuits, he would take up with his old calling of barrister, and be equally pleased with himself and the world. His happy disposition would accommodate itself to every change of circumstance. "Had he been appointed," says our author, "ambassador to a country where clothes were considered a useless incumbrance, he would have appeared in the costume of Adam the very first evening of his arrival." He found Italian comedy in a most pitiable plight when he commenced his dramatic labours, every production of the comic muse containing the same stereotyped characters of Pantaloon, Arlecchino, the Doctor and Brighella. This state of things he determined should last no longer, and he set to work writing innumerable plays on an entirely new principle, to the great horror of the supporters of the legitimate drama. In one year he produced no less than sixteen new pieces, each containing three acts. This was no light task, and poor Goldoni was nearly beaten by it, but he had given the world his promise that that number should be written, and that promise he most religiously kept. Mr. Copping, on commenting upon this intellectual feat, makes the following remarks which must be distasteful to more than one writer of the present day:—

"Had Goldoni been an English dramatist of the present day, writing for the English stage, it would have been facile and agreeable enough. He would have collected a number of new French plays, latest productions of the Paris theatres from the stately 'François' to the gamesome 'Bouffes Parisiens' or 'Folies-Nouvelles.' He would have carefully examined these charmingly fresh and pure constructions. He would have altered a few incidents, changed French names into English, substituted St. James's Park for the Allée des Veuves, and refigured ideas too glowing for icy English ears. These transformations finished, he would have set himself to the work of translation. Working blithely as a government official, and the same number of hours per day, he might with gentlemanly ease have finished a three act play each week. He would have put his name to it as the author, with a modesty worthy of all praise, and have enjoyed the golden fruits of his labours with a tranquil and contented heart. Instead of sixteen, he might, with a little extra exertion, have produced sixty such new pieces in the course of the year."

Poor Goldoni was, however, in a very different position. He could use French plays but sparingly. There was a wide gulf between Paris and the Bride of the Sea—between those who filled the pit of the Théâtre Français and the frequenters of St. Angelo. Incidents which might have suited very well in the Café de Foi or the Tuileries Gardens, would have been quite out of place in the Square of St. Mark or on the Grand Canal. An Italian public would not have accepted pictures of foreign manners as representations of their own. They were too much attached to their long established national pieces to receive altogether without a murmur a change which was of home invention, and which did not attempt to lead the drama away from home ideas. Foreign pieces thrown hastily into an Italian mould, but with the marks of their original impression still strongly exhibited, would not have been tolerated for a moment. What a pity London of to-day is not like, in this respect, Venice of the last century!"

The extracts we have given will show that "Alfieri and Goldoni" displays more than ordinary literary ability, though it is proper to add that the author has found the materials for the work cut and dried ready for him, the tragic and comic writer having each written their personal "Memoirs" at considerable length.

Mr. Copping has evidently taken Macaulay's works as a model upon which to found a style, but the pupil has yet to acquire that finished smoothness and completeness so remarkable in his master, and his short sentences are too often jerking and disjointed.

Giulio Branchi. The Story of a Tuscan, related by himself, and Translated from the Italian MS., by ALFRED ELWES. London: Adley and Co.

WHEN a story-teller prefaces his narrative by insisting that it is strictly true, we at once suspect it to be pure fiction, and usually find its incidents more extraordinary and far-fetched than those of ordinary novels. This veritable autobiography of a Tuscan is a good specimen of the spurious histories we allude to, Giulio Branchi being as pure an invention as the great Munchausen himself, and scarcely less improbable. Mr. Elwes, who merely styles himself the translator, has evidently visited the scenes he has

described, and retains a vivid recollection of them. Further than this, there is nothing Tuscan about the work. It is redolent of England; the principal characters are British men and women; English ideas predominate in the mind of the hero; and Anglo-Saxon, not to say Cockney expressions, continually escape him. Thus, for example, we do not see why Branchi should invariably call each well-dressed lady he meets "a showy woman," which expression is neither pretty nor Italian. But although Mr. Elwes has signally failed in his original intention, which we presume was an attempt at Lefoe-like fidelity to probabilities, he has succeeded in writing a novel of absorbing interest.

We were afraid that the charming old romances, with shipwrecks, assassinations, and banditti, had given place entirely to that psychological school of domestic narrative which treats of the violent aspirations of strong-minded females, and the distresses of weak-minded men. In "Giulio Branchi" incident once more takes the place of high-flown conversation, and we are again brought face to face with the storm, the knife, and the musket. We welcome our old friend the bandit with a smile, as we feared he had become extinct. In the forests of Sardinia we find him in all his glory, feasting by the light of blazing torches, in caves hollowed out of the rocks; carrying off beautiful peasant-girls; attacking hostile bands, and behaving generally in a most orthodox brigand-like manner. We were, however, little prepared for a new phase of life which our hero describes among these outlaws, and which we consider a base innovation upon all our old-established notions. They are addicted to literary and artistic pursuits! Minucci, their chief, is a man of great attainments. There is an abundance of books in the camp; and, finally, Giulio is educated in all the polite branches of learning, including the classics, calisthenics, and drawing (the use of the globe is not mentioned) by an enlightened cut-throat, who quotes Tasso, Dante, and Byron!

The life of Giulio Branchi is singularly eventful. He begins as a *cenciajo*, or paper and rag picker in the streets of Leghorn; but having ideas above his station, he embarks on a felucca for Genoa. He is then shipwrecked upon the lawless island of Sardinia; the possession of which (if Signor Branchi's statements are correct) we do not at all envy our illustrious ally, Victor Emmanuel, as it seems to be peopled with brigands and equally objectionable fishermen. He spends sufficient time with the brigands to complete his education, and obtain a tolerable independence, and then makes his escape to Italy. After many vicissitudes he becomes a gentleman, which has always been the crowning point of his ambition, and, what is of minor importance, an excellent artist; painting pictures "worthy of Hogarth." As a matter of course, he falls in love more than once, and at the close of his history is comfortably married and settled. This is the story which serves Mr. Elwes as a canvas upon which to paint some charming pictures of Italian scenery; and which is made interesting, in spite of its somewhat lackluster incidents, by its forcible and picturesque writing. The volume exhibits that taste and neatness in typography and binding that characterises all of Mr. Adley's publications.

Curiosities of History, with New Lights. By JOHN TIMBS, F.R.S. London: Bogue.

THAT judicious and indefatigable compiler, Mr. Timbs, has here produced a work in which, as he tells us in his preface, he has attempted to "supply what has long appeared to be a want. Every reader of a newspaper is aware how often historic incidents and classical quotations are employed by public writers, by way of illustrating their subject. The plan is doubtless a good one, although it takes for granted a much wider acquaintance with history and classic lore than it generally falls to the lot of some to receive, or having received, to remember." To inform the one class and assist the memory of the other, is stated to be the object of this little book. Not only is this object attained, but a result appears to us which Mr. Timbs does not seem to have anticipated. The book will be hailed with delight by all intelligent youths who may have the good fortune to receive it. They are at present, in order to understand classic allusions, compelled to refer either to the Latin Dictionary Appendix, or to Lemprière—both scanty, both thoroughly heartless, and as dry as any unadorned narration of incident can possibly be, both perfectly unimpressive, and one of them, at least, otherwise objectionable as a medium for the instruction of youth. The "Curiosities of History," a continuation of the series of "Things not Generally Known," will be a valuable handbook to those who may desire to assist their children or pupils on the road to appreciation of general literature and the conversation of the educated. In order to give an idea of the comprehensiveness and utility of the work, we may mention that it includes several hundreds of brief but agreeably written anecdotes, ranging from the celebrated story of the Dog of Alcibiades to the history of that mysterious and potent phæd which is still so frequently referred to with awful solemnity, by elderly gentlemen, and which bore only the words, "To stop the Duke—run for Gold!" The value of the book is much enhanced by its careful references to authorities, for the benefit of those readers who may desire further to pursue any subject referred to in its pages.

Reynolds and his Times. By WILLIAM COTTON, M.A. Edited by JOHN BURNET, F.R.S. London: Longman and Co.

THE biography of Sir Joshua has yet to be written. The volume before us is simply a collection of facts connected therewith, which may be useful to the future biographer, but certainly cannot be considered as supplying the desideratum. We have here extracts from Sir Joshua's pocket-books, verifications of his genealogy from parochial registers, a guide-book chapter relating to his birthplace, fac-similes of his handwriting, tariffs of his prices at various periods of his career, keys to his various vehicles and systems of colour, lists of his portraits, the sums realised by their sale, and, in short, all that can be desired except the essential life and character of the man. The book is an excellent inventory, and little else. Moreover, the addition to the title, which promises some endeavour to give an idea of the time in which Reynolds flourished, is scarcely warranted by the performance, and is, therefore, unfair to the purchaser. The present work will be useful to the picture-dealer, the connoisseur and the copyist of Sir Joshua's pictures; but the literary student, and the amateur who may feel an interest in the history of English art as developed in the progress of our first generally accomplished national painter, will be but little satisfied with its perusal. An appended *jeu d'esprit*, written by Sir Joshua, in which the diction and style of argument of Doctor Johnson are hit off with remarkable perception, humour, and imitative power, is alone sufficient to prove how great must be the void which Mr. Cotton has not attempted to supply in the way of anecdote and illustration of the character and intellect of his subject.

The Family Friend. London: Ward and Lock.

THE volume for 1856 of this popular magazine has just been published. It is really, as it purports to be, a periodical specially adapted for domestic reading. It contains articles suitable for all ages, domestic recipes, riddles, tales, poems, lessons in music and drawing, intellectual exercises, gardening directions, reviews, designs for needlework, fables, puzzles, and all that invention, guided by judgment, can supply, for the advantage and delight of the family circle. Among the scientific papers, a series by Dr. Letheby, on the composition and effects of quack medicines, is likely to prove of great social benefit. A clear analysis is given of the advertised productions of the most notorious pill-mongers of the day; and the cases of coroners' inquests arising from the use of popular empirical nostrums, are here scientifically arranged and enumerated, and form a list truly horrifying.

Sunny Hours, a Holiday Companion for Young People. London: Adley and Co.

THIS is the title of a new monthly magazine for children, the contents of which are varied and amusing. The illustrations are far above the average of those usually presented to juveniles. A pleasing feature in the work is formed by the introduction of lullabies, set to music, by the well-known and genial musical antiquarian, Doctor Kimbault; some of them to the original and ancient nursery melodies.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE ART TREASURES EXHIBITION have decided upon the formation of a collection of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon antiquities, illustrating the state of art in these islands from the very earliest period.

WHEATLANDS. THE RESIDENCE OF PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.

THE favourite residence of the future President of the United States possesses at this moment a certain degree of interest among people on this, as well as on the other, side of the Atlantic. It is in the State of Pennsylvania, about a mile from the city of Lancaster, and our engraving represents what the Yankees style "the Southern Exposure," selected by our artist on account of its affording the most picturesque view.

Lancaster is one of the largest cities in the interior of the state, and is about seventy miles from Philadelphia. The road between these places is particularly interesting. Fine farms, elegant mansions, rich fields, fattening cattle, and splendid views, are on every side presented to the eye. The wooden houses of New England are hardly seen in this region. In their places are edifices of dark stone, or of stone covered with mastic of a clay colour. The large barns are of the same materials, covered with the same kind of coating, and usually ornamented with rows of windows and blinds.

As you approach Wheatlands, the country is open and pleasant. The fields are highly cultivated, and thrift and opulence seem stamped on everything around. The city of Lancaster can be seen from the vicinity of the President's mansion; its domes, towers, and steeples loom up with picturesque effect; and, on every hand, you have beautiful views and undulating landscape. On entering the gate leading to the house, you are impressed with the surrounding stillness. The hum from the streets of Lancaster is distinctly heard, and every sound peculiar to the great country retreat falls musically on the ear.

From the gate, Wheatlands presents an elegant and picturesque aspect. A circular path, hidden by forest trees and shrubbery, leads up to the door. The carriage drive is composed of dry tan bark, which completely deadens the sound of footsteps and wheels. The house is of unpainted brick, and contrasts remarkably with the surrounding foliage. It is two storeys high, with wings on either side; and a large portico, supported by substantial columns, adorns the front entrance. In the centre of the lawn is the gardener's dwelling—a white cottage; and in front of the mansion is a beautiful spring, which gurgles out from the earth, clear as crystal, glistening like diamonds, under the shade of a magnificent tree. The spot is quite a favourite one with Mr. Buchanan, and towards it, when at leisure, he often leads his casual visitors. Walking with stately dignity over the ground, are two majestic eagles, presented to Mr. Buchanan from a friend in California. In so far as the interior is concerned, Wheatlands presents the appearance of good taste as regards its furniture and general appointments.

THE OLD DUKE OF RUTLAND.

WE announced last week that the Fifth Duke of Rutland had bequeathed to his father; and we now, in fulfilment of a promise then made, present our readers with a portrait of that old and amiable representative of a bygone generation. Many of our contemporaries have commented feelingly upon the death of the Duke; and the event has caused, especially in the Vale of Balyor and at Newmarket, an expression of profound regret. Considering the high character and many virtues of the Duke, we do not wonder that such should have been the case. The departed nobleman did not indeed cut a prominent figure as a public man; he was not a great statesman, qualified by experience and eloquence to rule nations and lead senates; nor were the political views of the party to which he gave a consistent support, generally of a popular colour. But then everybody knew that he was not a mere ordinary duke, with a feeble intellect, a ridiculous idea of having a right to do as he liked with his own, and a surname borrowed from some baron of the Middle Ages, who, if permitted to revisit earth, would look with undisguised scorn on the luxurious idler who assumes to be his representative. But the Duke of Rutland was a genuine Englishman, with vigorous faculties, a clear knowledge of his duties as well as his rights, and a name derived from a long line of knights and nobles, not one of whom, we are sure, but would have felt pride in that worthy old man, with a clear head and generous heart, sitting in his arm-chair, and moving over the affairs of the counties through which his domains extended. Between such a personage and the people of England there could hardly fail to exist a certain kind of sympathy, which no mere political considerations could either create or destroy.

The family of Mannors is of great antiquity, and for many centuries maintained territorial state on the margin of the Tilt at Etal, now renowned as the most picturesque of villages, and celebrated as the Anburn of the Northumbrian plains. Escaping extinction by the long lances of "the Merse forayers," in those wars which desolated the borders, the Mannors flourished at Etal, as grim warriors, knights of the shire, and sheriffs of the county. At length one of them had the good fortune to marry an heiress of the great Anglo-Norman house of De Ros, and with her got the vast estates and lordly castle of Belvoir. A son of the Northumbrian knight who had made this matrimonial hit, succeeded to his mother's barony of De Ros; and a grandson being in favour with the Eighth Henry, was created Earl of Rutland, and indulged with a slice of the church lands. Time passed on, and in 1703, the tenth Earl was created Marquis of Granby and Duke of Rutland. The son of the third Duke, as Marquis of Granby, won high honours as a military commander on the Continent, and died before coming to the ducal title. His son, the fourth Duke, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and died in 1787, at the early age of thirty-three, while discharging viceregal duties. Having married a daughter of the fourth Duke of Beaufort, he left several sons, of whom the eldest, John Henry Mannors, became fifth Duke and fourteenth Earl of Rutland.

At the time when the Marquis of Granby thus succeeded to the titles and estates of his father, he was a boy who had scarcely seen ten summers. He had been born on the 4th of January, 1778; and, when at the usual age, was sent to Cambridge, where, in 1797, he took the degree of M.A. Having succeeded at so early an age to the Dukedom, he never had the advantage of sitting in the House of Commons. In 1799, however, he took his seat among the Peers of England.

The family of which he was the head had long formed part of the potent Whig connection, and found that line of politics not quite unprofitable. But a great change had come over Europe since the time of his "cordial, frank, and free" father. The French Revolution had produced a rupture in the Whig party. The dread of French principles and French daggers had driven many of the "great Revolution families" into the Tory ranks. While democracy seemed on the eve of triumph, the philosophy of Burke threw a halo around ancient institutions; and Pitt formed great leagues for their defence. Among the number of Whig families, who repudiated their hereditary politics, and gave their support to Pitt's Ministry, was the young Duke of Rutland. With the exception, however, of seconding an address, he did not take any prominent part in the proceedings of the House of Peers. He contented himself with giving to the Ministries of Pitt, Addington, Perceval, and Liverpool, as afterwards to Wellington, Peel, and Lord Derby, a steady but silent support. During the greater portion of his time his brothers, the late Lords Charles and Robert Mannors, represented the Tory interest in the counties of Leicester and Cambridge, in which lies the bulk of the property of the house of Rutland.

Possessing, as he did, the extensive political influence inseparable from broad acres and a long pedigree, it is not remarkable that the Duke should have received an early mark of ministerial favour in the shape of the blue ribbon of the Garter, which was conferred upon him by Mr. Addington, afterwards first Lord Sidmouth; and for many years previous to the time of his decease, he had become senior knight of that illustrious order. The Duke was installed as long ago as April, 1805, when the then Earl of Hurdwicke the Duke of Beaufort, the Marquis of Abercorn, the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, and the Earl of Chesterfield, were likewise installed with great pomp at Windsor, on St. George's Day.

In the early part of the century, the Duke of Rutland was the centre, both at Cheveley and Belvoir, of the most distinguished circle of that day. Belvoir has hardly yet forgotten the revelry at the christening of the heir of the house of Mannors, in the year 1815, when "George Guelph" and the Duke of York were sponsors; and the latter, with Colonel Melish, "the Beau," and Crabbe, the poet, who dedicated his poem, entitled "The Borough," to his Grace, as the son of his first patron, were

amongst the most favoured guests, when the Duke retired to Cheveley Park for the Newmarket meetings and the shooting season. This had been his father's constant practice, and the son was still true to Cheveley and all its quiet pleasures when he came to his own.

In the sporting world the Duke of Rutland was known and respected. When twenty-eight, his name first appeared in the "Racing Calendar," and for a long period afterwards he was a princely patron of the turf, and ardently attached to our national field sports. He took great delight in his pack of foxhounds, which were first established in 1730. In Mr. Grant's celebrated picture of "Sir Richard Sutton's Hunt," he is introduced along with his heir, and side by side with the late baronet and Mr. Assheton Smith. To the last, he subscribed largely to the maintenance of the Leicestershire Hunt, though for some years unable to follow the amusements of the chase.

It was as a great provincial magnate that the Duke of Rutland shone. He found a more congenial sphere of action in his native county and his domestic circle than in political affairs and the atmosphere of courts. As a magistrate, country gentleman, friend, neighbour, and parent, it is not too much to say that he was equally honoured and beloved. He took great pride in his corps of Leicestershire Yeomanry; and at Christmas and other seasons of the year, and especially on his own birth-day, he rejoiced in keeping open house in "princely style," and in entertaining not only his family and friends, but the leading inhabitants of the county and his own poorer dependents. He was always regarded as one of the best landlords in England; and, from his liberality and earnest consideration for the welfare of his tenantry, he was deservedly very popular amongst that numerous body. One proof of the affectionate regard entertained for him by his tenantry may be referred to. So recently as Christmas, 1855, the tenants on the Belvoir estates presented him with his portrait, which they had painted by subscription by Grant. We recollect, last year, when this portrait was exhibited on the walls of the Royal Academy, hearing visitors exclaim that surely the subject of it must be about the finest old English gentleman left upon the earth.

Long before that period, however, it was apparent that the Duke's end was approaching. For



THE LATE DUKE OF RUTLAND.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. FASHAM, OF SCARBOROUGH.)

more than thirty years he had been confined to his bed at Belvoir Castle, and he died, near Beynham, at the age of 75, on the 28th of January, 1857. Lady Emmeline, his wife, who will be fresh in the memory of our readers, was a blow to the Duke, who was attached to her. In his last thoughts that he would not see Newmarket alive, and he so perceptibly that his friends around him expected to see the new year in. He sank gradually till, on Tuesday, the 20th of January, early hour, he slept the sleep which knows no breaking.

Soon after arriving at his residence, the Duke of Rutland was met by Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of the fifth Earl of Arundel, and granfather of the present Duke, which estimate lay down in the leaving issue four daughters and three sons. The three sons were seated in the present House of Commons—the Marquis of Granby, North Leicestershire; Lord Manners for Leicestershire; and George Manners for Leicestershire. The Duke's eldest son, Charles Cecil John, Marquis of Granby, who has now succeeded to the Dukedom, was appointed in 1852 Lord-Lieutenant and Commander of the Lincolnshire Militia. The resignation of the late Lord Brownlow. He was born in 1818, unmarried. The Marquis is known as one of the best "country" or "protection" men in which capacity he has been spoken with considerable authority in the House of Commons. He first returned for Stamford, which borough he represented until July, 1852, when he was elected for North Leicestershire, on the retirement of his uncle, the late General Lord Manners. By his accession to the House of Lords, a vacancy was created in the representation of that division of the county.

Besides enjoying the honours and dignities we have mentioned, the Duke of Rutland was Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Leicestershire, and Colonel of the Leicestershire Militia. He was Steward of Cambridge, Recorder of Scarborough and Grantham, a trustee of the British Museum, and a member of the Council of King's College, London. On Thursday, the 28th, the remains of the Duke, after lying in state at the Castle for two days, were consigned to the mausoleum at Belvoir.



WHEATLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, THE RESIDENCE OF JAMES BUCHANAN, PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES.

CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. XXII.
BIRTHPLACE OF THE RIGHT HON. BENJAMIN DISRAELI,
6, BLOOMSBURY SQUARE.

This house, in which an able, though perhaps not very consistent, statesman first saw the light, has a twofold interest, inasmuch as it is the place where Isaac Disraeli, the father of Benjamin, for a long period pursued his variable literary labours.

In the year 1748, at a time of religious persecution abroad, Benjamin Disraeli, the youngest son of a Venetian merchant, came to London to try his fortune. Mr. Pelham, who was favourable to the Jews, was then prime minister. At that time, might be found amongst the Jews flourishing in England—the Villa Reals, who have twice allied themselves with the aristocracy of the country, the Medinas, the Laras, who were kinsmen of the Disraelis, and the Mendez de Castes. The grandfather of our statesman did not mix with the people of his race, and that feeling was further encouraged by his marriage, in 1765, with a young lady of remarkable beauty, who seems not to have been possessed of much strength of mind. Mr. Pelham failed in removing the disabilities under which the Jews laboured; nevertheless, the young Disraeli persevered, and prospered in business. "He was," says his grandson, "a man of ardent character, sanguine, courageous, speculative, and fortunate, with a temper which no disappointment could disturb, and a brain and reverses full of resource. He made his fortune in the midway of life, and settled near Enfield, where he founded an Italian garden, entertained his friends, played whist with Sir Horace Mann, who was his great acquaintance, and who had known his brother at Venice as a banker, and, notwithstanding a wife who never pardoned him for his name, and a son who disappointed all his plans, and who to the last hour of his life was an enemy to him, lived till he was near ninety years of age, and then died in 1817, in the full enjoyment of prolonged existence."

At the Italian villa, near Enfield, a pale, pensive child, with large, dark brown eyes and flowing hair, reminding those who saw him of young Chatterton, might be seen roaming about, his disposition entirely misunderstood by both father and mother, who looked upon him as "moon-struck" and little better than an idiot. It is impossible to say what effect better training might have had on this talented boy. His father was a good-natured man, who thought that a present of a guinea or two to a school-boy was a sure remedy for all points of difference between them. Notwithstanding many disadvantages, Isaac Disraeli had, at the age of fifteen, acquired a considerable amount of knowledge; it was, however, in vain to tempt him to pay any attention to trade. While little more than a youth, he ventured to bear a packet of MS. for Dr. Johnson at Bolt Court, and was told by the servant to call exactly that day week for an answer. He punctually kept his appointment, but the Doctor was far gone in his last illness, and had not examined the young student's MS.

About this time he formed a valuable acquaintance with Mr. Pye, who remonstrated with his parents against attempting to force the son to pursue quite contrary to his taste and ability. "Peter Pindar" was then in his glory; and a poem, in reply to one of his works, appeared under the title of "On the Abuse of Satire." Isaac on a visit to London found this poem in much request, and buying up numerous copies, carried them back to Enfield, when he acknowledged to his father and mother that he was the author.

We have not space to enter into the particulars which led to the publication of the "Curiosities of Literature," a work which was immediately appreciated by the public. In 1795, in the 29th year of his age, the labours of Isaac Disraeli were for some time suspended by a nervous illness, which seems to have been in a great measure caused by a want of sufficient employment for the huge amount of active energy which he possessed. On recovering from this attack, for ten years his pen was never idle, but it was to note and register, not to compose. His researches were prosecuted every morning in the British Museum, while his own ample collection enabled him to pursue his investigations in his own library at night.

The next ten years were passed entirely in steadily producing various works, and not even his marriage seems to have interfered with his studious pursuits.

A view of Mr. B. Disraeli's birthplace naturally suggests recollections of those extraordinary exertions which have metamorphosed a lawyer's clerk into a Chancellor of the Exchequer and a leader of the House of Commons. We will refer briefly to the story of his struggles for fame and fortune.

When "Disraeli the younger" was being educated at a suburban academy, in Hampstead or Highgate, he was asked—such at least is the tradition—by a schoolfellow how he intended to get on in life. It appears that, even in boyhood, the future novelist had formed his plan. At all events, he is reported to have answered, with much of the confidence in his own powers which he has since displayed, that he intended to get into Parliament, then to get into office, and then to get "Right Honourable" prefixed to his name. Fortune did not seem to favour his aspirations. For a while, he was doomed to the drudgery of an attorney's clerk; but his brain was fertile, and he contrived to emerge from obscurity as a contributor to the "Representative." That Tory journal, after a brief existence during 1826, went to limbo; but Mr. Disraeli soon after took the novel-reading world by surprise with "Vivian Grey," followed, as time passed on, by the "Young Duke," "Henrietta Temple," "Constance Fleming," "Venetia," the "Wondrous Tale of Alroy," and other works of imagination.

While these works were making Mr. Disraeli known to fame, he did not forget his early aspiration after a seat in Parliament; and in 1826, while at his father's residence of Bradenham, he suddenly appeared as candidate for the neighbouring borough of Chipping Wycombe,



BIRTHPLACE OF BENJAMIN DISRAELI, M.P.

snugly situated in a valley among the beech-clad hills of Bucks. Having failed at that place as a Radical, Mr. Disraeli next contested Taunton under Conservative colours. He again failed in his object; but at length he was successful at Maidstone, and commenced his parliamentary career.

Of that career we need not go into the details. Sufficient it is to say that after a fierce struggle he found himself at the head of what was called the "Young England Party," and availed himself of that advantage to destroy the position of the late Sir R. Peel, and take his place as leader of the Conservative host.

We have, of course, no inclination to criticise Mr. Disraeli's achievements in that capacity, nor to speculate on his prospects as a party chief. On such subjects our readers, doubtless, differ in opinion. But we feel sure that those who have no sympathy with his political opinions, will not refuse the admiration that is due to such brilliant works of fiction, as "Coningsby," "Sybil," and "Tancred," nor regard without interest the place where their author drew his first breath, and passed the years of his infancy.

THE FORTY-SECOND HIGHLANDERS.

WHEN, at an eventful crisis in European history, the armies of England and France were, in the face of Russian cannon, climbing the heights of the Alma, and the gallant Sir Colin Campbell uttered the memorable exclamation, "Highlanders never retire!" the brave officer merely conveyed in these words a compliment, to which the military achievements of the plaided warriors on many a field of fame had well and fully entitled them. We are sure that few people can reflect without admiration on the valour and energy displayed by our Highland soldiers, on so many occasions, or grudge them honours so gallantly won on some of those terrible days, when generals of world-wide renown met each other at the head of mighty armies, and exercised their military genius with a knowledge that the fate of Europe was trembling in the balance. The good feeling manifested by the Queen of England towards these Highland soldiers, who have fought so well and loyally in her service, must endear her still more to those northern subjects with whom she has always been so popular. By command of her Majesty, photographic likenesses of several of the men who form the far-famed 42nd Regiment have been taken, and exhibited. Of the heroes who have thus been graciously distinguished, our readers will be enabled to form an idea from the accompanying engravings. Of all those Highland regiments which have during the last and the present centuries contributed by their enthusiasm, their courage, and their contempt of danger to the military glory of England, we believe we are correct in stating that the "Forty-second" is the oldest; was originally raised among the younger sons of Highland "lairds," and known as the "Black Watch," from the dark colour of their tartan uniform. The duty of this body was peculiar, and such as—thank God!—there is no necessity in our day for any troops to undertake. It was to prevent those Highlanders who carried on the marauding trade, sallying from their rugged mountains, and making incursions into the territories of their Lowland countrymen.

The task was no doubt somewhat difficult; but animated as the corps must have been by something of that spirit which, about the same period, prompted some of their countrymen to perform that splendid exploit, celebrated by a northern poet in a ballad entitled, "The Island of the Scots," we can well believe that they were fitted by nature for much more arduous duty.

At length, so runs the story, it was deemed politic by Government to withdraw the "Black Watch" from their native mountains, and give them a taste of service on a more extensive scale. Accordingly, the regiment was brought to Edinburgh. On arriving in the Scottish capital, however, the mountaineers learned that they were destined for the Continent, and expressed the utmost aversion to the project. Refusing to listen to argument or persuasion, they ascended Arthur's Seat, took possession of the heights, hoisted a Highland plaid as their banner, and intimated in a manner which left no doubt as to their intention, that they were prepared to resist to the death. Alarmed at the stern aspect presented by the men, the authorities thought it expedient to dissemble, and promised that all would be right if they would only go to London and be reviewed by the King. The mountaineers were caught in the snare, marched to the English metropolis, and were forthwith embarked for the Continent.

This circumstance naturally produced a complete change in the composition of the "Black Watch." From that date, it was no longer, of course, recruited from the younger sons of Highland "lairds," nor distinguished as a volunteer corps. But the fame of the regiment increased. On many a bloody day, the Forty-second Highlanders did their duty so well as to elicit the highest praise from the great Lord Chatham, at a time when it was the reverse of fashionable to praise anything Scotch; and in after times, when Napoleon arose and alarmed the world with his projects of conquest, they signalled their prowess in Egypt, at Corunna, at Nivelle, at Toulouse, the Peninsula, and on the field of Waterloo.

With such a history to boast of, the Highland regiments were sent to take part in the Russian war; and their achievements in the Crimea were not unworthy of their former fame. At the Alma, the Highlanders figured conspicuously under their favourite leader, Sir Colin, who at the close of the engagement was personally thanked by Lord Raglan; and the display of Highland courage at Balaklava evoked a universal shout of admiration.

When the final assault was made on Sebastopol, the Highlanders were not called into action. But when the attack on the Redan had failed, General Simpson intimated to Sir Colin, that before morning he must take the stronghold with his Highland brigade. The brave officer announced the intended attack to his men in characteristic phrase—"The General," said he, "tells me



PIPE-MAJOR JOHN McDONALD, 72ND HIGHLANDERS.—(PHOTOGRAPHED FOR HER MAJESTY, BY CUNDALL AND HOWLETT.)

we are to take the Redan to-night; so be prepared. Recollect, I shall lead you on myself." Everything was prepared for the assault; but it was rendered unnecessary by the Russians deserting their works; and the Highlanders were prevented from winning fresh laurels, or striking a decisive blow in the last scene of that war, in which they had throughout taken so brave and honourable a part.

THE PIPE-MAJOR OF THE 72ND HIGHLANDERS.

We have often met people who were under the impression—and far be it from us to say that it is erroneous—that no more interesting human being could be found on the face of the earth than a Highland piper. How much more so must such an individual be when he has the advantage of laying claim to the reputation of having inspired the soldiers of England with enthusiasm for their native land on fields of fight, where have been performed military exploits which the grandest of our ancient kings and heroes might have envied. Such is the celebrated Pipe-Major, John Macdonald, of the 72nd Highlanders, whose portrait, taken by command of her Majesty, illustrates the previous page.

MEETING OF TICKET-OF-LEAVE MEN.

A MEETING of ticket-of-leave men, similar in its character to the one held last year at the National Hall, Holborn took place on Tuesday evening at Farringdon Hall, Snow Hill. It was thought by the promoters of the meeting that, at a time when all at every body is crying out for stronger measures of repression, it might not be undesirable to call together the ticket-of-leave men of the metropolis, in order to hear from their own lips what they have to say for themselves in answer to the apprehensions which they are exciting in the public mind, as well as to receive their account of the difficulties they encounter in their endeavours to obtain an honest livelihood. The arrangements for this singular gathering were made by Mr. Henry Mayhew.

The muster comprised from seventy to eighty of the class specially invited, who were admitted on presenting their respective tickets-of-leave at the door. Most of the men bore the appearance of belonging either to the costermongering fraternity, or to the class of bone gatherers and pickers-up of other unconsidered trifles. Greasy caps, and still grasier jackets, were the prevailing attire; but here and there was to be seen one of more pretentious equipment than his brethren, the highest style of all being that of the man whose bushy moustache and fleshy gold chain, gold studs, and dazzling rings, together with his jaunty air and his languid puff at the half-extinct cigar—all betokened an unmistakable connection with the swell-mobmen of London. The majority seemed under thirty years of age, and had nothing sinister in their expression of countenance. If there was indeed among them power, and then one whose sunken cheek, shushed eye, sharply protruding nose, and "forehead villainous low" pointed him out as a customer whom the belated wayfarer would not be anxious to meet in a lonely thoroughfare on a dark night, it is but fair to say that such a person was a rare exception to the general run of his companions.

Lord Carnarvon took the chair, and on or near the platform were Mr. H. Mayhew, Mr. A. Mayhew, the Rev. Mr. Portal, Mr. Beach, Mr. Wyld, Mr. Mackay, Mr. W. B. Jerrold, Mr. Hutton, Captain Wrixall, and some dozen other gentlemen more or less interested in the reformation of our criminal population.

The Chairman introduced the business of the evening, by inviting any of the men who had a statement to make to come upon the platform.

The first person to respond to this invitation, was a fully-dressed and simple-looking old bald man of about sixty, who prefaced his recital with the words, "Fellow men and brother sufferers," and went on to describe himself as one who had "seen more trouble in his time than any other man this day in England." However, he now held a situation which Mr. Mayhew had obtained for him, and though he had to work hard, he knew that many ticket-of-leave men would be glad to change positions with him, and return to honest pursuits. He went on to say:—"I know perfectly well there is many a case laid down in the papers concerning ticket-of-leave men, but one-half of the robberies and gartings are done by militiamen and soldiers. I know this for a fact. Last week a person got garted in the East End of the town by a militiaman—a policeman looking on; but I expect he had his 'regulars' out of him. (Laughter and cheers.)"

A compact, bullet-headed man, about thirty-five years of age, next presented himself, and commenced by asking—"Who is Mr. Henry Mayhew? I wish to know that before I commence my speech. Who is Mr. Henry Mayhew, and where is he? (Mr. Mayhew was sitting next the speaker, and on being pointed out to the speaker, he continued.) Why should you be ashamed to acknowledge you are the man? I came here to do something in truth, and not in fiction, and I wish to caution you against making yourselves as public in speaking your lives in public to benefit another man. That man is Henry Mayhew. His object in calling us together is to sell his books. A nice man is Henry Mayhew—a 'n't he?—to come here and get you to tell your confession? He stated the other day, in a Sunday newspaper, that while a ticket-of-leave man could make his £5 a week, and keep a pony, by his old practices, it was useless to expect him to become a clerk upon 15s. a week. A nice man, Mr. Mayhew." The speaker was interrupted by the meeting several times, and on the Chairman telling him that he was not speaking to the subject, he descended from the platform, repeating that he was a "bold man, and wished to tell the truth."

The third speaker was a shrewd little costermonger who figured at the first gathering held last year. He said he was glad to see that there was somebody still left to befriend his class now that it had so many enemies, and was regarded by the public and the press as so many wild beasts that it was necessary to chain up or destroy before they could be rendered harmless. His class were not all burglars and garters. He got a living himself as a costermonger because he could not find better employment, and he should certainly be glad to catch at 15s. a week, because he had a wife, one child, and an aged mother to keep. He had no other prospect before him than the workhouse for his old age, and he was anxious to scrape a little money together against a rainy day, but he had no wish to get it by robbery or outrage. He was getting an honest living, thank God; and, though he got only one meal on some days, that was far preferable to three meals and a pannikin of soup in the Penitentiary.

Another speaker, a mason, of from forty to fifty, and exceedingly well-dressed, but with a bitter and irascible expression of countenance, next ascended the platform, and inveighed fiercely against the persecution he had undergone at the hands of the police in his quest of honest employment. He said, "I am very sorry to say that I cannot get employment, and am in consequence obliged to do that I don't wish to do, and must do that or starve. I am able and willing to work to-morrow, even at three shillings, but I starve I never will. I have one thing to say—if the public found us employment it would be more to their credit than building prisons at an immense expense, which is not the way to reform the criminal. They won't give a man a trial. What is he to do? Is he to lie down and die against some brick wall? No, the police won't let him do that; he will tell him to go on; he must not stop there. I saw a man the other day pick out of the mud a crust of bread, who said he would work two hours for a bit of bread. He said he had no home, could get no work, and had nothing to do but to starve. He was twenty-six years of age, strong, hearty, willing to work, and yet famishing for food. There is not sufficient employment for the honest, and how can we expect employment?" The speaker went on to say that the way in which his kind friends "lent him a hand" was to set the police to hunt him down without cause. His married sister had been house lately broken into, and when the police went to inquire about it, his niece told them, "Oh! I have an uncle who is a housebreaker." By this means the police were set upon him; he had been dragged about by them from one court to another upon every variety of false charge. Once he was accused of stealing the hat he had on, and it was only by the latter's coming forward to prove his purchase of it that he was ultimately liberated. He was a ticket-of-leave man himself, and he now lived with a ticket-of-leave woman; and of course that was sufficient to justify his apprehension for every conceivable depredation committed in his neighbourhood. If a mat was stolen from the next door, ten to one but the police would be down upon him for it. "It is all very well," said the speaker, "for the public to say, 'Go here or there—you can get work!' but let them go to Smithfield Market, and they will see that thousands are out of work who never committed a crime. The people of England are very kind to other people, they don't care for their own. They send missionaries every where, but we want missionaries at home, where the people want to learn to read and write, and where schools and institutions are so much required, and they would prove as cheap. I am sure, as to building prisons, or to be at the expense of transporting them; and if this were adopted, the country would save thousands. We are all human beings, and why should we not have the nourishment that God has sent us? There are numbers of the public who relieve us, but others think we are wild beasts. I have heard ladies say, when they come to see us, 'Lord bless me, how quiet they are!' (Great laughter.) I think they must have thought we were some chained demons. I can assure them the ticket-of-leave man is flesh and blood, and has got sense and reason, and knows when he is trodden on. As to stop crime by transporting, that will never do. If there were an institution for men when they came out of prison, it would do good, but transportation will do no good."

Two or three other ticket-of-leave men having addressed the meeting in a similar strain, the Noble Chairman made a few remarks, winding up the proceedings. Having asked for a show of hands to ascertain whether the men would prefer to have a ticket-of-leave in England or a ticket-of-leave in the colonies, and found that they all, without a single exception, signified their choice of the latter alternative, the Noble Lord thanked the men for their very orderly behaviour. He encouraged those who were most inclined to deponency to make one determined struggle more to regain the path of virtue. There were many wealthy persons disposed to assist them if they showed themselves worthy; and he earnestly implored them to abandon their old associates when they were released from prison, to keep together all the money to which they were then entitled, and to emigrate with it to the colonies, where they had the brightest prospects before them.

LAW AND CRIME.

LORD ERNEST VANE TEMPEST, whose distinguished military services during the late peace, recently obtained for him the Cross of the Order of the Sack, is still continuing his practical contributions to English History. In the Court of Exchequer, on the 23rd inst., was tried an action which has been brought against his Lordship for about £150, the value of goods supplied to him by a jeweller named Hancock. The plea thereto was that of infancy. The fact of his Lordship's still existent juvenility will no doubt afford great gratification to that large portion of the public which has so long gazed with admiration upon his apparently manifold achievements. Although a minor is legally liable only for necessities, the law allows a somewhat liberal explanation of that term, holding it to include even articles of luxury suitable to the rank and condition of the infant. Among the goods supplied to his Infancy, were jewelled studs, a gold latch-key, and a locket; the mention in court of the last of which afforded some amusement. The Learned Judge asked what it was, and upon having it defined by Mr. James, the counsel for the plaintiff, as "a small gold case to contain the hair of one you love," the Learned Baron replied that he himself had never had such a necessary. Mr. James answered in what appeared a jocular retort, but was nevertheless a proper and sensible observation, that his Lordship the Baron had never been a young officer in the Guards. As to the gold latch-key, it seems that the brother officers of the defendant prided themselves upon letting themselves into their chambers with nothing less costly. Can anything be conceived more miserably silly—more hopelessly snobbish? One can in some measure extenuate the error, even of Lord Ernest, on attempting to form an estimate of his surrounding influences by the glimpse thus afforded us. But, perhaps, the gold latch-keys of his fellows were paid for; and if so, this fact is something to their credit, as Lord Ernest's was only set down to him. The jury in the cause might probably have allowed all the items charged, but for a defect in the evidence as to the supply of some of the articles, arising from the absence of a material witness. A verdict was in consequence given for only £65, being the amount proved to be due. Lord Ernest will therefore be at liberty to avoid the contract of purchase as to the remainder of the goods, and may return to Mr. Hancock those not included in the sum recovered. An English nobleman will, of course, disdain to deck his person in jewellery, which, as far as the seller's remuneration for them is concerned, might as well have been abstracted from the tray in the shop-window by less aristocratic hands. It would, indeed, be a dreadful thing for his Lordship to be asked at a ball, by some caustic elderly lady pretending to admire some article of jewellery about him, whether it might be his Lordship's own, "or got out of that Infancy affair, you know?"

The authors of the Adelphi farce, "A Night at Notting Hill," might, had they delayed its production but for a short time longer, have received a useful hint from the latest published development of life in that locality. The recent occurrence of several burglaries (of which accounts do not appear to have reached the newspapers) had induced the police to take steps to capture the offenders. Accordingly, a few evenings since, a body of police, in private clothes, and under the direction of an inspector, was distributed in ambush in the vicinity of the back-gardens of Westbourne Terrace. As usual, the burglars came. Two men were seen by a constable to gain the top of the wall near him, and to drop thence into the garden beyond. The policeman sprang his rattle, and immediately in every direction were to be seen policemen in private clothes getting over walls. The watchful inhabitants, awakened by the rattle, flew to arms, and being, naturally enough, unable to distinguish clambering policemen in private clothes from burglars, mistook the army of relief for a storming party, and discharged their weapons right and left, until, to use the graphic words of one of the police present, "You'd ha' thought, sir, as it was Sebastopol or a Guy Faux night!" One enterprising policeman, on attaining the top of the nearest wall, found himself suddenly in the grasp of a volunteer in the Notting Hill war costume—namely, night-gown, trousers, swinging braces, and nothing else—and only saved himself from a tremendous crack with a life-preserver, which was then being flourished above his head, by a timely declaration of his office and number. The two thieves were captured; and beyond one policeman wounded by a knock on the head from one of the rascals, we are delighted to find that no casualties occurred, although the fact does not speak much for the expertness of the artillerymen engaged. On the part of the besieged, we are also glad to be able to state that not so much as a rabbit-pie was missing, which redounds greatly to the credit of the police.

A question which was brought forward in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Friday, the 23rd inst., is one of some interest to journalists. At a public meeting of the Commissioners acting under and appointed by the "West Hartlepool Improvement Act, 1854," certain speeches were made condemnatory of certain acts committed by a Mr. Davison. These speeches were reported in the "Durham County Advertiser," against which Mr. Davison thereupon commenced an action for libel. It was pleaded by the defendant that the report was a faithful report of a public meeting of commissioners acting under the statute mentioned, and that there was no malice in publishing it. To this plea the plaintiff demurred. That is to say, he denied the plea to be an answer to the action; and hereupon the question came before the Judges, as to whether the plea was good or not. The Judges, with Lord Campbell at their head, considered the plea to be invalid. Their reasons for so doing were, that although a fair report of a public trial cannot constitute a libel, still, that the speeches made at a public meeting, "from a meeting of the county, to a meeting for the removal of a pauper," cannot be considered as within the law. "At such meeting," said Lord Campbell, "there might be a great number of things said extremely injurious to private character; and if such a plea as the present were allowed, there would be no opportunity for the party to vindicate his character from the aspersions cast upon it." In these remarks the other Judges concurred. The "Times" quarrels with the decision, as if it were the verdict in the action. Now, as the law stands, such Judges as those of the Queen's Bench are tolerably sure to be right in their interpretation of it. But the cause has yet to be tried upon its merits, and if a jury composed of, and taken from, the newspaper reading classes, will venture to award penal damages for a fair report of an open meeting, then will be the time to complain of an inroad on the liberty of the press. As the matter stands, supposing defendant's case to be thoroughly substantiated on the trial, it is not unlikely that his attorney will be obliged to get change for a halfpenny to pay the plaintiff's damages.

The charge against Mr. S. E. Pack Barber, of the Samaritan Institution, of obtaining goods under the false pretence of their being for the use of the poor applicants to that establishment, has been dismissed. Sir R. W. Carden, in the course of his judgment, said, "there is not a doubt that a class of witnesses has been called for the prosecution, as well as for the defence, upon whose testimony little or no reliance can be placed. To support a charge of obtaining goods by false pretences, it is not sufficient to show that they had been obtained under a fraudulent promise to make a particular use of them hereafter." At the conclusion of the judgment, we are told, there was a burst of uncontrollable applause, which, to our humble capacity, could only have been excited by the fairness and lucidity of the worthy Alderman's speech, inasmuch as he did not by any means evince any sense of the injustice of the charge, and indeed as it appears to us bore somewhat heavily against Mr. Barber, even while acknowledging the lack of sufficient evidence to convict him of the legal offence. Considering the Alderman's remark upon the character of the evidence on each side, we can scarcely imagine the applause to have arisen from triumphant partisanship, on either hand.

A person calling himself Dr. Sidney Hall (alias John Sutton, alias Manning) was charged, on Saturday last, at the Clerkenwell police-court, under the following circumstances. A country farmer (whose name the "Times" considerably withholds, as we shall do, because the publication of a name under such circumstances is only assisting the villainous system alleged to have been pursued) found himself in need of confidential medical advice, and wrote a letter to the prisoner disclosing certain facts. Upon this the prisoner threatened to publish the letter received, unless the farmer would send a douceur of £25. A warrant was then obtained against him, on a charge of attempting to extort money, and, if these circumstances alone had distinguished the case, perhaps we should not have cared to refer to it. But on attending to execute the warrant at the residence of defendant at Frederick Place, Goswell Road, Clerkenwell, the officers met with

some delay in the passage, and during the interim, saw the prisoner run up stairs. When they at last got through a glass-door, the object of their search was not to be found, and his wife, who had sounded a bell on the first intimation of danger, declared triumphantly that they would never find him so long as they lived. Nevertheless, the officers instituted a vigorous search, and at last found, under the carpet of the elegantly-furnished drawing-room, a trap-door leading to the prisoner's place of concealment. All this points to the inference that prisoner had either carried on, or then intended to carry on, his system of extortion, for some considerable period, and was perfectly aware of the risks to which it exposed him. It is perhaps not generally known, that this game is one of the commonest swindles of London. The victims are usually young and inexperienced persons, who not unfrequently labour only under imaginary or hypochondriacal maladies, and who, when they have once placed their secret in the hands of a certain class of sham medical practitioners, are haunted for years, sometimes to their ruin or their grave, by incessant extortion of hush-money. Only a few years since a young gentleman of family, a graduate at Oxford, who had been for some time victimised on this plan, had the wisdom and moral courage to print a pamphlet exposing it, and to forward a copy to every professional gentleman named in the "London Directory." It is not a little singular, that in the identical copy of a certain cheap daily paper, which contains the report of this case at Clerkenwell, there appears an advertisement from an anonymous "Physician," who announces himself ready to be consulted gratis, by either sex, and on any disease, personally or by letter. Singular, that a gentleman of talent and position (though, by-the-by, not having this gentleman's name, we cannot be expected to pledge ourselves to his diploma) should be content not only to throw away his professional time and talents without remuneration, but moreover to pay to advertise his own generosity.

THE MURDER IN WALWORTH.

THE declaration of Martha Bacon, that she is innocent of the death of her children, but that her husband it was who murdered them, has been strengthened by her later statements, and by certain discoveries made by the police. She says her husband rose at six o'clock on the Monday morning, and lit the fire, leaving her in bed. She saw him take the little boy down stairs, and, hearing the child cry, she jumped out of bed, and immediately saw her husband with a bloody knife in his right hand. He rushed at her and made several cuts at her throat, and wounded her as she had been afterwards found, but she kept him off as well as she could, caught hold of the wrist of his right hand, and in some measure overpowered him; it was while endeavouring to cut her throat that he cut his finger and inflicted the wound before spoken of. As soon as her husband could release himself from her hold, he drew a rope from his pocket, and threw it round her neck, to stifle her cries, and forcing her on the bed, rushed out of the room. In confirmation of her assertion on this point, it is a fact that, when taken to Horsemerger Lane Jail, the matron of that prison noticed a livid mark round the neck, such as would be produced by a rope or some hard ligature tied tightly round it, and it struck her to be of so singular a character that she called the attention of the prison surgeon to it.

In consequence of these revelations Bacon was arrested. On the first day of his confinement in Horsemerger Lane Jail he appeared in so frantic and dejected a state of mind that his fellow-prisoners were under the impression that he would make a confession, but the next day he became more composed, and has since gained confidence. He takes pains to impress on all those about him that he is innocent of the charge alleged against him by his wife, and expresses a strong hope and expectation that he will soon be set at liberty.

Several discoveries have been made to corroborate the conclusion that Bacon is the murderer of his children. On proceeding to the residence of Bacon's uncle, Mr. Payne, of Angelsea Street, Waterloo New Town, and which Bacon on the day previous to his arrest described as his present residence, the police found among his clothes a pair of fustian trousers, stained with blood. These trousers are the pair described by his wife as those he wore on the morning of the murder; but she adds that he also had on an apron. Now, an apron much stained with blood, and which had been evidently used to wipe up some stains of blood on the bed-room floor, was found by the police on the morning when the murder was discovered.

Some difficulty has arisen as to the disinterment of Bacon's mother, whom he is supposed to have poisoned. Mrs. Bacon appears to have been interred in the parish church of Great Casterton, Rutlandshire, and therefore beyond the jurisdiction of the authorities at Stamford, who were directed to carry out the examination of this matter; but should any serious difficulty present itself, it is intended at once to apply to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for an order for the immediate exhumation and examination of the body.

It has been clearly ascertained that, a few days before his mother's death, Bacon purchased half an ounce of arsenic at the shop of Mr. Patterson, druggist, of Red Lion Square. He had previously made attempts to procure arsenic on pretence that he wanted it in his trade, but was unable to do so. When he applied to Mr. Patterson he was told that poison could not be sold without a witness. He then went out, and as Mr. William Clifton, plumber, was passing, he called him in. The arsenic was therefore delivered to him, and an entry of the fact was made in Mr. Patterson's book, which was signed by Bacon and attested by Mr. Clifton. This was on the 8th of May, 1855. On Sunday, the 13th, Bacon's mother died with him. On her return home she was taken ill, and on the Tuesday following she died. No suspicion as to the real cause of her death was entertained at the time, but it is said that subsequently Bacon's wife, during her insanity, let fall observations which gave rise to the accusation.

Amongst the articles found on Bacon at the time he was taken into custody, was a square morocco case, containing the photographic likenesses of his murdered children as they lay together in their coffin. This he carried with him to Stamford, and showed it to his friends and acquaintances, always expressing great grief at their loss, and the dreadful death they suffered.

Mrs. Bacon has desired that her husband might not be allowed to approach or come near to her, saying she is sure, after making the statement she has, he would kill her if he had the opportunity. Since her apprehension, indeed, she has evinced the greatest possible terror of her husband, who appears to have exercised great control and power over her.

THE BULLION ROBBERY.—The Sheriffs of London and Middlesex have claimed the bonds which were left by Agar to Fanny Kay, and which Mr. Baron Martin was of opinion should be delivered up to her. Other property found in the possession of Pierce, Burgess, and Tester was also claimed, as the property of felons, and therefore forfeited. There were several other claimants—Saward, the attorney, who defended Pierce, at a cost of £260; the wife of the prisoner Tester; and the Directors of the South-Eastern Railway Company, who having paid £10,000 as the value of the gold that had been stolen, claimed to be treated like other prosecutors, and have restored to them that which was clearly made out to be the produce of the stolen property. The case was brought before Mr. Baron Martin and Mr. Justice Willes at Westminster on Tuesday; and, after some discussion, the judges rejected the claims of Mrs. Tester, Saward, and the Sheriffs, and made an order that the Company should have restored to them so much of the property as was shown to be the result of the robbery, and that the remainder should be given into the custody of Sir Richard Mayne, the Chief Commissioner of Police, to abide any future orders that may be given respecting it.

POLICE.

THE UNEMPLOYED.—A great number of mechanics, labourers, and others, assembled in the front of Clerkenwell Police-court on Monday, to seek the advice and assistance of Mr. Corrie, in consequence of their having been refused relief by the parish authorities of Islington. The complaining parties had formed part of a large meeting previously held in Smithfield, after which they proceeded in strong bodies to the parishes of Clerkenwell and Islington to seek relief, where their numbers caused some alarm.

Mr. Corrie directed that those who wished to complain should be admitted into the court, when a rush was made, and it was instantly crowded to excess.

George Bent, a man of respectable appearance, spoke for the applicants. He said they had applied to Islington parish, and were refused relief, but some were relieved at Clerkenwell. They applied to his Worship for advice to get relief, and assistance in a legal and peaceable way.

Mr. Kendall, a decorative painter, said he was unemployed four and five days a week. He had a wife and three children, and they were starving. They applied, with others, to Islington parish, and were told that they could not be relieved except from nine to twelve o'clock in the forenoon.

High Pierce, a joiner, of 12, Calcedonian Street, Islington, said he was not in actual distress, but he did not know how soon he might be. He came as the representative of those who were unemployed; because, if such things continued, they would lead to a revolution in the country.

Henry Hunt, a painter and glazier, of Rosomon Street North, said he was out of work, with a wife and three children. He had not a morsel of food at home, nor money to procure it, or he would not apply to the parish. He applied to the parish of Islington, and was refused relief.

Mr. Corrie—Yours is a case I can practically deal with. Is there any other case here?

A Voice—Yes, sir, 600 here, and as many more outside the court.

Mr. Corrie ordered an officer to go instantly and request the immediate attendance at the court of one of the parish officers of Islington. Mr. Hicks, a relieving officer, attended just before the closing of the court, when Mr. Corrie suggested that the applicants should be properly attended to and relieved, according to their necessities. Mr. Hicks said he would attend instantly to the most urgent. The applicants then left the court to go to the workhouse.

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